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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-170
Tuesday
5 September 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-170 *5 September 1989*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Maghreb Summit Canceled by Libya-Morocco Dispute

LD0209132589 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 2 Sep 89

[From the "Afrique Matin" program]

[Excerpts] Tripoli has been in the focus of the news since yesterday with the 20th anniversary of the Libyan revolution. The ceremonies were colorful, attended by about 20 heads of state and government from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, but also Western delegations including Thierry de Beauce, the French secretary of state in charge of international cultural relations, and the Italian foreign minister, in particular. All these VIP's witnessed a huge march, referred to as the march of the people in arms, and of course there was the much-awaited speech by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, a very hard-hitting speech during which the Libyan leader reaffirmed his convictions as a world revolutionary.

Above all, however, there were several sour notes, which scuttled the plan for a Maghreb summit, and these sour notes were due, it must be said, to the very particular relations between the king of Morocco, Hassan II, and the leader of the Jamahiriyah, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. Here is a report from our special correspondent Rida Bougezi:

[Begin Bougezi recording] Already compromised by the absence of the Mauritanian president, the Maghreb summit in Tripoli has not, in the event, taken place. The reason is a flagrant incompatibility of temperament between King Hassan II and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The colonel appears to have been put out of countenance by the fact that the Moroccan king is living in Tripoli aboard his private car ferry, the "Marrakech"—a residence from which he has barely set foot since his arrival in Libya 2 days ago. The king of Morocco did not even attend the official opening of the 1 September celebrations yesterday morning, nor did he attend Friday prayers with the other Muslim heads of state. The king of Morocco claimed that he was suffering from seasickness, and merely sent a message of congratulations to Al-Qadhdhafi from his ship, which is lying at anchor in the center of Tripoli.

In the afternoon, the leader of the Libyan revolution paid his guest back in kind, because the colonel simply boycotted the Maghreb meeting, which brought together the three heads of state of Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. Al-Qadhdhafi sent, as a delegate to this meeting held—once again aboard the "Marrakech"—Commander al-Khuwaylidi al-Hamaydi, who arrived at the end of the meeting.

In the evening during the air and military parade, the only seat remaining empty on the official rostrum was that of Hassan II. The king of Morocco later made a very brief public appearance on the rostrum, before hurrying back to his ship.

Whatever the case, one thing is clear: The Maghreb summit did not take place and will not take place. President Ben Ali returned to Tunis yesterday evening to attend the nonaligned summit in Belgrade, and there is no indication that Al-Qadhdhafi and Hassan II are about to reconcile their difference to get around the same table. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Let me add that this morning it was still not known whether the Maghreb summit would take palce. Our special correspondent has just confirmed for us that there will be no Maghreb summit.

Jordan-Syria Relations Reportedly Deteriorate

JN0309102689 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 1 Sep 89 p 1

[By Basim Sakkijha from Tripoli and Amman]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Reliable sources have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim's tour of Gulf countries which began 2 days ago is designed to bring about a united Arab position on Lebanon. The sources added that Jordan is currently preparing for developments in Lebanon that may not be in line with the Syrian position. Syria rejects what is now being called the Arab solution, which seeks to limit the Syrian role in Lebanon to the minimum. Although the declared Jordanian position tries to appear balanced between the two extremist stands adopted by Baghdad and Damascus, it has become obvious that Jordan's position is somewhat biased because it is inclined to limit the Syrian role and especially since there is close coordination on this matter with Cairo, Riyadh, and the PLO.

The sources have said that Jordan is now trying to convince all the parties that the military solution should be excluded and that only Arab solutions must prevail in Lebanon. The sources added that a compromise solution must result in Syrian approval of the Arab tripartite committee's plan which would bring about a withdrawal of Syrian forces from Beirut to al-Biqa'.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI predicted 3 months ago that Syrian-Jordanian relations would deteriorate and face a deadened on the basis of their political positions and the balance of power in the region. AL-QUDS can now confirm that relations between the two countries are now facing deadlock. AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has obtained reliable information that work on the al-Wahdah Dam on the al-Yarmuk river—which is a strategic project for Jordan and is being carried out on Syrian soil—has been completely suspended and that Jordan has removed all the facilities it had established on Syrian territory for the project.

Over the past 4 months, Damascus has increased its pumping of water from the river in violation of an agreement between the two countries. Damascus has also established 18 barriers on the river before the water reaches the Jordanian side. Observers believe that this is the last straw with respect to the two countries relations

and will make the Jordanian capital adopt a clear position on the Lebanese issue and relations with the PLO.

A Jordanian source close to the Jordanian Govermment told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI yesterday that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's letter to Jordan's King Husayn, which was delivered by Faruq al-Shar', dealt with the Lebanese issue, thus refuting the statements made by the spokesman for the Syrian Presidency yesterday. The source added that Al-Shar' himself confirmed this at his news conference. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLF Claims Infiltration Into Israel

JN0309171989 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1707 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Following the categorical Jordanian denial of the infiltration operation into Israel, the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] in Damascus today claimed responsibility for the operation. The front emphasized that the commander of the Tiberias operation was killed in the clash, but declined to give further details due to security reasons, as indicated in a statement issued in Damascus.

It will be recalled that PLF leader Tal'at Ya'qub died in November last year.

PLO Official Cited on Swedish Initiative

NC0209101889 Paris AFP in English 0953 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 2 (AFP)—Sweden has launched a new mediation aimed at breaking the impasse in the dialogue between Washington and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, a PLO official said in a report published Saturday [2 September].

'Abd al-Latif Abu-Hajlah said the move followed a PLO request for the Swedish Government to "assume its responsibilities and intervene" in a bid to overcome the obstacles in the negotiations which opened last December in Tunis.

The dialogue was initially started at Sweden's initiative, the PLO's Political Department director told the United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-BAYAN, adding that the talks were to have focused on Palestinian self-determination. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message on the negotiations to Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, Mr. Abu-Hajlah said.

Salah Khalaf, a senior PLO official, has said the last round of the U.S.-PLO dialogue on August 14 amounted to a "step backwards" because of Washington's insistence on an Israeli plan for elections in the occupied territories.

Abu-Sharif on Lebanon, Uprising, U.S. Talks

JN0209114689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1024 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Doha, 2 Sep (WAKH)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has stated that the only purpose of the current destruction in Lebanon is to distract the attention of world opinion from the Israeli crimes and from the need to terminate the Zionist occupation of the Arab territories.

In an interview with the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ, published here today, the Palestinian official said only intra-Lebanese dialogue—without guns or interference—can lead eventually to a long-term, permanent solution in Lebanon.

Abu-Sharif proposed that Lebanese Acting Prime Minister [title as received] Dr Salim al-Huss begin a serious dialogue with General 'Awn to draw up a Lebanese paper acceptable to all warring parties in Lebanon on a method for breaking the current deadlock, rebuilding the legitimate institutions, electing a new president, forming a national coalition government, ending Israeli occupation, and setting a timetable for the Syrian forces' withdrawal. He noted that there is agreement among the Lebanese factions on 80 percent of the points at issue. He called for the revival of the tripartite committee's efforts and said an Arab summit on Lebanon is essential.

Abu-Sharif indicated that the next stage of the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories will be an escalation, but without the use of firearms. He stressed that the resistance becomes tougher as the Israeli measures become more repressive.

On the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, the Palestinian official said the PLO is neither in a hurry nor in a critical situation. He added that it is Israel which is in a critical situation, as is the United States so long as it does not adopt a position conforming with President Bush's announcement of the need to end the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories.

Uprising Leadership on 'Killing' of Collaborators

JN0409061889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] In a statement issued yesterday, the Unified Leadership of the Palestinian Intifadah [uprising] called on Palestinians to resist the Zionist occupation forces' attacks on villages as well as the attempts to kill strugglers on the spot. Enemy War Minister terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday said he will give his forces more freedom to fire at Palestinians.

The Unified Leadership's statement directs a new warning against the hasty killing of Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the Zionist enemy. The statement calls on Palestinians to act with patience and to await the decision of the higher authority before meting out punishment.

The intifadah leadership's statement accuses the Zionist enemy of attempting to create divisions among Palestinians by distributing false leaflets.

The statement defines the intifadah activities until 22 September.

'Use' of PLO-U.S. Talks Questioned

JN0509071489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Palestinian Intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territory issued a new call in which it accused Washington of obstructing all possible developments in the peace march, something which has sparked serious doubts among the intifadah factions over whether the existing dialogue between the United States and the PLO is of any use.

The intifadah call adds that in view of these obstructions, the Palestinian people in the occupied territory have no other alternative but to escalate the intifadah to realize their freedom and independence.

Commentary Requests European Aid in U.S. Talks

LD0109194889 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers, while the U.S. Administration is intent on maintaining its dialogue with the PLO, and after the PLO has exposed the U.S. prevarications during the four sessions of dialogue, diplomatic reports have indicated that some European states are now making moves to save the situation and persuade the U.S. Administration to raise the level of its dialogue with the PLO which has responded to all the peace requisites which the leaders of the Zionist occupation are still rejecting. The European endeavor, undertaken more precisely by France, Britain, and Italy, is aimed at preventing the collapse of the dialogue between the PLO and the United States and one hopes to see this endeavor succeed in purifying the U.S. mentality which is still under the influence of the Zionist mentality which rejects peace and which every day adopts all the attitudes liable to hamper the peace process for a lasting and just peace in this part of the world, namely the Middle East.

If Europe today is more convinced than ever before about the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in light of the extremely positive stands taken by the PLO, Europe is requested to translate this conviction into a firm stance to compel those who reject the peace requisites, namely Israel, to respect these requisites because with its political, diplomatic, and economic weight Europe is qualified to play a major role in the settlement of the conflict in the Middle East. Such a settlement should allow the Palestinian people to achieve the just objectives of their struggle and their legitimate rights, their right to return to their homeland and their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

PLO Factions Said To Open Offices in Cairo

JN0409153489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 3 Sep 89 p 21

[Text] Damascus, AL-ITTIHAD—Informed Palestinian sources have said that the Palestinian organizations affiliated with the PLO will open representation offices in Cairo after the Egyptian authorities had agreed to this. The sources said that a number of representatives of these factions are actually in Cairo to discuss the opening of these offices.

The sources pointed out that Jamal Zaqqut has indeed been appointed representative of the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine].

Salah Khalaf on U.S. Response to Fatah Decisions

PM0409133489 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 30 Aug 89 p 6

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Qulaybi] Fatah's decisions have so angered the U.S. Administration that an official spokesman announced recently that the United States disagrees with Fatah. Do you believe such criticisms are justified?

[Khalaf] The United States always tries to justify Israel's rigid and intransigent stances by blaming other parties for the failure of any progress toward peace. On that basis, the United States tried to exploit Fatah's congress to link it with something it did not say and blame it for something it did not do.

Fatah's congress upheld all the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council in Algiers. It also upheld the PLO's political program and all its political moves without exception. In addition to that, Fatah's congress agreed, for the first time in its history, to make contacts with the Israeli peace-loving forces. Where is the Palestinian intransigence or extremism?

As for the armed struggle, we did not abolish it, even once. Nor did we promise the Americans, or any other party, to stop the armed struggle. But we have given priority to the intifadah [uprising] since its launch. So where is the intransigence? We believe that the United States fabricated that battle to conceal its bias toward Israel.

[Al-Qulaybi] It seems the United States was alarmed by Fatah's decision to move the intifadah into the territories occupied in 1948.

[Khalaf] That decision was probably one of the reasons.

[Al-Qulaybi] What are the other reasons?

[Khalaf] Objectively, the intifadah has not been moved into the territories occupied in 1948, but the Palestinian people everywhere now express their support for and solidarity with the intifadah. So all the reasons being rumored and spoken about are fabricated, unfounded, and untrue.

[Al-Qulaybi] You recently described the fourth round of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue as "very bad." Why was it so?

[Khalaf] That round was very bad for two reasons. First, the United States still imagines that it can impose the Shamir plan on the PLO under the election slogan.

Second, the U.S. delegation's tone in that round embodied threats: "Accept the elections or else...." Such a tone is unacceptable.

True, we want and love peace, but our dignity comes before anything else. This is why we feel dissatisfied with the method to which the U.S. delegation resorted in the recent round of dialogue. Add to that the fact that the dialogue was not based on anything new, despite the four rounds held and despite the 9 months which have elapsed since its launch: Nothing was discussed during that dialogue other than the elections and the Israel's viewpoint. Through that dialogue the United States wants the PLO to act as a broker to persuade our people inside to abandon the PLO and all the Palestinians outside the occupied territory.

The Americans must know that we cannot accept that role at all.

[Al-Qulaybi] But the statement by U.S. Ambassador to Tunis Pelletreau did contain something new, since he said: "The elections could lead to a comprehensive solution."

[Khalaf] We do not trust such statements, which leave the final settlements for an indefinite and unknown period. I understand that there would be transitional stages, which we would examine thoroughly, to be followed by the final settlement stage including the right to self-determination and to establish the independent Palestinian state. If there is no U.S. commitment to a phased final settlement, we will not follow that road. I do not believe in a peace that perpetuates the Israeli occupation. I believe in a peace leading to the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. As for the peace sought by the United States to guarantee Israel's security, it is a peace leading to the end of Fatah and its entire struggle.

They are mad if that is how they are thinking.

[Al-Qulaybi] So are you demanding a fixed timetable for the final settlement?

[Khalaf] Since the outset we have said that there was a need for a comprehensive plan including elections—a comprehensive plan leading to a final settlement of the Palestinian problem, represented by the endorsement of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital. Unless the right to self-determination is upheld, we cannot follow that road. What do we need an imaginary settlement for?

[Al-Qulaybi] Is it true that Fatah's general congress was tantamount to a compromise between hardliners and moderates?

[Khalaf] Fatah's congress upheld the political initiative and all the efforts made by the leadership and entrusted it completely with putting that initiative into effect. The congress was characterized by a spirit of responsibility and democracy. The grass roots spoke with the leadership with total freedom.

[Al-Qulaybi] The situation in Lebanon has become very serious. How do you view this issue?

[Khalaf] We consider that the blame for the recent dangerous escalation in Lebanon lies with those who obstructed the senior tripartite committee's efforts, which could have constituted a firm and just basis for a solution of all the region's problems. But unfortunately those who tried to obstruct the tripartite committee's work do not want calm and or stability for Lebanon.

What is happening is Lebanon is a crime, and I, on behalf of my brothers in the Palestinian revolution, urge the senior tripartite committee to resume its work and earnestly try to work to stop that bloodshed: First, because Lebanese blood is dear to us and we want Lebanon to be united. Second, because what is happening in Lebanon now harms us worldwide, harms the intifadah, and harms our peace moves with respect to the world. How can the world believe that we want peace when we are unable to achieve it among ourselves? We call on all parties to shoulder their responsibilities in full.

Editor Assails Arab Stand on Intifadah

JN0409075098 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1903 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Article by WAFA political editor]

[Text] The question arises as to where the Arabs stand on the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] as full-scale confrontations take place—particularly in Nabulus, currently experiencing the worst siege since the intifadah erupted. This West Bank city is bearing the full brunt of the terror of the Israeli military and settlers. Will our Arab brothers remain passive onlookers as they have been since the beginning of the intifadah? Some of our Arab brothers keep scoring points off the Palestinian revolution and the PLO whenever the intifadah seems to abate. As if they are thus relieved of responsibility and their consciences are unburdened.

We have chosen to talk about the Arabs rather than Nabulus, which, since Friday, has been engaged in full-scale confrontation with enemy forces, sustaining five

martyrs and many wounded. The intifadah that erupted 20 months ago has not scored a military success against an enemy equipped with the most up-to-date lethal weapons including chemical weapons. The intifadah has not exactly liberated Palestine. All that it does is keep the enemy busy, sap its strength, and expose its terrorism and civilization by putting in the limelight the capdonned, bearded, fanatic extremists waging on a tribal chauvinistic war against the Palestinians. The intifadah debunks the enemy argument that it possesses the staples of a state and that it has transformed into paradise a land without a people. The Zionist entity is shown by the intifadah for what it is—a sectarian, racist, backward state practicing brazen racial discrimination against orential Jews and blacks as well as the Arabs in Palestine and beyond. That is the most that the Palestinians of the intifadah can do and indeed have admirably done and paid for with their blood both on behalf of themselves and the Arab nation. Have the Arabs done anything to keep in step with the intifadah? They have failed to mount so much as a protest march in front of a single embassy of the United States—Israel's principal protector and the dedicated apologist for its racial policies—if only to impress on Washington that the Arabs support Palestinian rights and oppose a Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

At this critical hour for the people of Nabulus experiencing terror and siege, a Palestinian is bound to ask what the Arabs are doing for him in terms of political and moral support as well as popular and financial backing. The world, and more particularly the West, understands the language of interests. The West thinks twice before making its decisions when its interests are at stake. It behooves us to remind the Arabs of the impact the Arab oil cutoff had during the 1973 war. Not that this is the only option available to the Arabs. There are numerous ways whereby the Arabs could boost the intifadah and give momentum to the heroic Palestinian struggle and bring about a further pro-Arab shift in the European and American public opinion. More importantly, American and European interests would also be affected.

So the possibility is there for the Palestinian intifadah to develop into an Arab intifadah, since where the occupation is concerned interests come into play. If the Palestinians have been robbed of their land, the Arabs have had their wills confiscated and potential for progress and development stunted. Had the intifadah spread beyond Palestine, the United States would not have dared to trample on Arab rights or abstained from voting on a UN Security Council resolution on the expulsion of five Palestinians from their homeland.

We have confidence in the American people and are fully convinved that one of these days an American lawyer will sue the U.S. Administration for its failure to comply with U.S. laws banning the expulsions. The U.S. Administration has brought disrepute to itself.

Researcher Interviewed on Israeli Arabic Radio

JN0209195889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Sep 89

[From Palestine broadcast: "Dialogue" with researcher Husayn 'Udat presented by Bassam Ghabrah]

[Text] [Ghabrah] Mr 'Udat, if you please, what are the main features of the Arabic service of the Israeli radio directed to the Arab audience in the Arab countries?

['Udat] Regarding Arab countries, it is difficult for the radio to say: I am [word indistinct]. It acts as a beamed broadcast and cannot [word indistinct]. It tries to present such material as may influence the Arab communities wherever they may be.

Naturally, the sharp line drawn between listeners inside and outside the occupied territory is arbitrary. It is noted that its programs targeting Arab listeners at home are different from those beamed to those living overseas.

Programs meant for Arabs living in the parts of Palestine occupied since 1948 and 1967 attempt to emphasize coexistence, tearing down the psychological barrier, and Arab-Israeli harmony.

As for the Arab community overseas, the radio attempts to impress upon them that Israel is an invincible power. It also aims to make the Arabs despair of achieving victory or regaining Arab rights. It fans regionalism, sectarianism, highlights inter-Arab differences, questions Arab capabilities, and tarnishes the image of Arab resistance and the PLO. It overstates Arab backwardness and questions the usefulness of Arab alliance with liberation movements and socialist countries.

The radio seeks to justify the practices of capitalist powers around the world and carries such news about Israel as might elicit admiration of it and its scientific, technological, and cultural advancement and its democracy. The radio stresses that Israel respects individual freedom and that it breaks the psychological barrier between Arabs and Israel and so on. It attempts to achieve normalization between Israel and the Arab states. It attempts to exploit traditions, proverbs, and dialects in each Arab country and uses them in order to prove that it identifies with Arab listeners. It presents music and songs from various Arab countries. It has a fat archive of Arab songs. It carries programs about the Arab press.

However, as you know, every journalistic subject must be an integrated one with an introduction, body, and end. Sometimes a couple of paragraphs are taken from an Arab newspaper. The listeners have no access to a given newspaper. For instance, the Israeli radio quotes from a Moroccan newspaper cited by a news agency. It quotes it out of context. As you must know, each sentence fits in a particular context. The same holds true for foreign newspapers. Some Arab newspapers are quoted as if they were published in Israel. Such items are used to serve its interests.

[Ghabrah] You mean that the radio tries to brainwash its audience using such ways?

['Udat] Without doubt, Israeli radio uses various ways and means. The majority of its listeners are ordinary people. It presents slanted and sometimes truncated news. A single sentence is sometimes taken out of context. Although it does not seem to be telling a lie, it is carrying a truncated item. Sometimes it focuses on the political side of a cultural program. The history of music is associated and connected with time and place. It is identified with a given people who have their unique activities, culture, and economic and social life. All these are neglected. The radio approaches music as if it were the product of a composer who wrote a melody through individual effort. At the same time, it claims that it is discussing the history of Arab music.

[Ghabrah] Even on the front of sports. The Israeli radio never highlights a success by an Arab team in any sport.

['Udat] Exactly. It seeks to portray the Arabs as being backward, weak, and divided among themselves. It does not serve Israeli interests for its radio to carry news of any Arab successes—be they on the sports or any other front. This is because this would clash with the mainstream of its policies.

[Ghabrah] If you please, would you sum up the main goals of the Israeli broadcasts beamed to Arab listeners in general?

['Udat] The general trend of the Israeli broadcasts has never deviated from the main goals of the Zionist movement. You must know that the Zionist movement's goals adapt to changing circumstances and that they have been shifting since the first Zionist congress in 1897. The Zionist movement has adopted slogans to suit the changing times. For example, it had certain goals at the beginning of the Zionist movement. It had other objectives after World War I. The Zionist movement had different objectives between the two world wars than during the postwar era. The same holds true for the 1956 and 1967 aggressions and the 1973 war. Each time it floats new slogans, and the radio has not deviated from this framework. This is natural, since the Israeli radio is, after all, a media organ directed to the Arabs—be it those who live inside or outside the occupied land.

The broadcasts seek to make the most of sectarian sensibilities and fragment the Arab communities. They also seek to make the Arabs question their common bonds. The Zionist media discuss so-called historical rights of the Jews, Israel as a peaceful country, Arabs as aggressors. They deliberately exploit sectarian sensibilities and seek a frangmenation of Arab societies. They also seek to fragment the one Arab culture and disrupt common Arab interests. They concentrate on compartmentalizing Arab communities into sects, regions, and religions that have little in common. The broadcasts are a principal weapon to advance Zionist goals. The radio is the only media organ that can directly reach the Arab communities.

[Ghabrah] Thank you, Mr 'Udat, for taking time off to talk to us.

['Udat] Thank you.

Egypt

Mubarak Leaves for Belgrade Nonaligned Summit

NC0309085089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Belgrade this morning to take part in the ninth summit of the nonaligned states, which starts tomorrow.

'Abd-al-Majid Interviewed on Arab Affairs

JN0309115489 Cairo AL-MUSAWAR in Arabic 1 Sep 89 pp 14-16

[Interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Al-Sa'id] What about Lebanon after the many initiatives that have been put forth for the settlement of the crisis there? There is a proposal to convene an international conference, another to hold an Arab summit. There is also a proposal to form an Arab peace-keeping force to enforce the Arab decision for an immediate cease-fire, and there is also the proposal on the national reform and accord charter that the Arab Tripartite Committee recently submitted. There is also the proposal that you recently submitted. What do you have to say to all this?

['Abd-al-Majid] We must start from the beginning. The beginning, in our opinion, is the decision the Casablanca Arab summit adopted to form the tripartite committee and delegate to it the task of settling the Lebanese problem. The tripartite committee submitted a report on 1 August stating it had reached a dead end. Following this, many developments took place, the most prominent being, perhaps, the call made by the UN Security Council and the moves which took place on more than one Arab and international level. All these moves reaffirmed that the tripartite committee should resume its mission. Egypt's position is that the Arab tripartite committee should carry out a second attempt. Of course, we wish it success and hope that all the elements which were missing in its first mission will be made available to it in its second attempt. We believe that the situation in Lebanon is critical, regrettable and a source of pain and sorrow. It is extremely important to end the tribulation in Lebanon, not to mention the bloodshed. The first thing that comes to mind is the need to achieve a cease-fire before any other move is made. Without a cease-fire, one cannot start the discusion of constitutional reforms. We must state here that the tripartite committee has submitted a comprehensive plan for constitutional reforms and this plan deserves to be carefully and thoroughly studied. There is a need to begin searching for a settlement of the Lebanese crisis. I believe that the nonaligned summit will emphasize the importance of such a course and that an atmosphere will prevail of seeking to settle the crisis quickly instead of an atmosphere of confrontation, obstruction, and obstacles which would hamper a solution.

[Al-Sa'id] France has entered the Lebanese arena through a diplomatic campaign by its leaders. However, its naval moves in the Mediterranean have raised fears of a possible military intervention. What is your opinion of the French naval presence in the eastern Mediterranean and do we have anything to say on the mobilization of foreign fleets, even if they belong to friendly countries?

['Abd-al-Majid] With respect to the French military presence, all the clarifications and explanations given by the French Government affirm that the presence is to evacuate its nationals in case of imminent danger to the lives of the 7,000 French nationals who remain in Lebanon. France has denied any intention to carry out military operations. Contacts between us and the French continue. We appreciate President Mitterrand's initiatives—his contacts with many of the UN Security Council permanent members, with the members of the Arab tripartite committee, and the recent visit by the French foreign minister to Egypt when he met with President Mubarak and explained President Mitterrand's initiative to him. We believe that France is very much concerned about ending the bloodshed in Lebanon.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your perspective on what is taking place in Iran in view of the new leadership led by Hashemi-Rafsanjani and in light of indications that he intends to water down and reduce the extremism and follow a moderate line? Out of all this, do you see a chance for restoring ties with Iran?

['Abd-al-Majid] Iran must first show its goodwill. Besides, its policies need to be clarified. These policies must be shown by deeds and not words. I believe that the Belgrade Nonaligned Movement's summit will be a test for Iran's real intentions with regard to hastening to implement all articles of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and also regarding the adoption of policies that seek to settle problems rather than foment them.

[Al-Sa'id] Amid all this, what do you have to say to Iraq and Iran to help them establish a comprehensive, full, and durable peace between them?

['Abd-al-Majid] The UN secretary general is currently holding contacts at the highest levels with the Iraq and Iran. Our information is that Iraq has responded favorably to the demand for peace, whereas Iran has yet to respond favorably.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you, then, call upon Iran to work for real and serious direct negotiations with Iraq to help achieve a durable peace between them?

['Abd-al-Majid] Our position is clear. We stress the need to launch direct negotiations between the two sides. We also call for terminating the no peace-no war situation and for the establishing of tranquillity and stability in the [Arabian] Gulf region.

[Al-Sa'id] With regard to Israel and Shamir's plan for holding elections in the occupied territories, Israel has not so far replied to the enquiries submitted by Egypt and has thus failed to provide the clarifications requested. You said that the Israeli reply will be used as criteria for defining your position on the Israeli initiative. What are your current views on this issue?

['Abd-al-Majid] We made our enquiries on the basis that Shamir's proposals must be clarified. That is because no party can reject elections. Nobody can oppose the idea of elections, which are a democratic process. However, certain conditions must met. The elections must be held in an atmosphere of total freedom and under neutral supervision. Besides, those running for elections must know the outcome or result envisaged. The process should neither be a tool for the attainment of autonomy nor should it be a manifestation of something temporary. The election process should be a vehicle for reaching a final settlement of the Palestine question. Egypt has submitted ten questions. So far, we have received no answers. I would like to make it clear that we are thus expressing our desire to take any path that might lead to a peaceful settlement. If Shamir provides explanations and clarifications of his proposal, the Palestinian side might be convinced by them. Such explanations might also be unacceptable.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue—especially considering that PLO leaders, including president 'Arafat, have recently criticized it as having an insignificant outcome? These leaders believe that the dialogue lacks genuine content or substance and there is a fear that it might be stopped because of this.

['Abd-al-Majid] I am of the opinion that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue must continue, regardless of all the attempts to stop it. The dialogue is useful and its termination will not be useful. On the contrary, it might cause harm.

[Al-Sa'id] Salah Khalaf, 'Arafat's deputy, has been quoted as saying that there will be no more meetings between Palestinians of the occupied territories and Israel, and that the PLO will not sanction any dialogue. Can any Palestinian-Israeli dialogue be useful?

['Abd-al-Majid] These might be the opinions of those voicing them. However, dialogue must not be rejected. The dialogue must be maintained regardless of the difference in attitudes. In the long run, dialogue does no harm—and it might even be useful. I believe that this should be the position of the negotiator who seeks to secure his rights.

Communist Suspects Released After Investigations

13 Suspects Freed From Custody

NC0309163389 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1543 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, senior public attorney of the Higher State Security Prosecution Office, today ordered the release of 13 suspects who were held in connection with the case of the Egyptian Communist Workers Party. They were among 57 people in custody for investigation on the case. The results of the investigations have been submitted to Public Prosecutor Counselor Jamal Shuman.

Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud has also ordered a medical examination of the released suspects to decide if they received any injuries. [passage omitted]

More Communist Suspects Released

NC0409180989 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1526 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, senior public attorney of the Supreme State Security Prosecution Office, today ordered the release of nine suspects held in connection with the case of the Egyptian Communist Workers Party. [passage omitted]

The Prosecution Office decided to refer the released suspects to the coroner to determine their injuries.

Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud decided to keep four other suspects in custody for 15 days in order to conduct further interrogation. [passage omitted]

2 Human Rights Activists Released

NC0509111889 Paris AFP in English
1007 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, Sept 5 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities have freed 11 people held on charges of belonging to the underground Communist Workers Party, including two members of the Human Rights Organisation, newspapers reported Tuesday.

Muhammad al-Sayyid Sa'id, a journalist, lawyer Amir Salim and the nine others were released late Monday, the reports in government newspapers said. Egypt's Human Rights Organisation had called for the release of its members and of other "prisoners of conscience" held since August 25. The detainees should be allowed to see a forensic doctor, it said.

The organisation last week accused police of having tortured and mistreated 52 detainees accused of belonging to the Communist Workers Party. A state security court Sunday ordered the release of 13 other members of the group and that they undergo a medical examination "to determine if they have been injured or not."

The arrests were made after a metalworkers' strike in the Hulwan region south of Cairo, where police intervened in force in early August. Eighty workers were jailed after the unrest, which left one dead and 15 wounded.

Writer Questions Communists' Arrests

JN0109121989 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 30 Aug 89 p 5

[Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad article: "Questions to Those Responsible for Busting a Communist Workers Organization"]

[Text] Of course we cannot interfere in a case under investigation because the law will eventually have the final say. However, over the past several days, I have been receiving numerous telephone calls from foreign reporters and from committees protecting human rights and following up achievements in this field everywhere. Some of these are an American committee defending the rights of reporters who have been subjected to torture. They call me up from Washington sometimes.

This had to do with the communist workers organization which newspapers announced had been arrested. Accordingly, many educated people and workers have been imprisoned: some respectable journalists and known lawyers; some critics, writers, and artists and others members of Egyptian and Arab committees defending human rights. They were accused of "conspiring to topple the ruling system" and "establish by force and violence one social class in place of another in the authority."

Of course, these foreigners who were trying to find out from me what had happened, all of whom were Westerners, based their judgment of Egypt on the image the regime is attempting to portray. In other words, it cares greatly for the values of public freedom and multiparty democracy. Therefore, the questions they fired at me were quite harsh. I admit that I could not answer many of them.

And since I know that the authorities are concerned that these questions do not remain unanswered, I will take the liberty of referring the most important ones over to them in case they can find someone more capable than myself to answer them.

I was asked:

First—Are we a workers organization or a communist organization?

The organization to which they accused the detainees of belonging was described as being called the Egyptian Communist Workers' Party [hizb al-'ummal al-shuyu'i al-misri]. This is not the common name nowadays since communist parties are by nature workers' parties. It is not customary to add the word "workers" to the name. Are we really discussing a workers' organization, or an organization which stemmed from, or which the state organs imagined had been created, following the workers' movement in the iron and steel factories which moved to defend their means of subsistence and against the aggressions on their standard of life. Due to their action, they were subjected to torture, arrests, and imprisonment. In fact, all these express a movement of solidarity with the detained workers, a movement of rallying around them and supporting them, a movement that included workers from the various parts of the republic, and which included also a number of educated people. It is one of the movements that are highly esteemed in the Western countries, which support it without any reservations.

Or are we—and this is the second possibility—facing a communist organization? However, it is known that the communist organizations are not spontaneous ones that emerge on occasions.

Hence, the state organs had to explain a strange coincidence, that is, the discovery and apprehension of this communist organization on a specific occasion—the move made by the workers. Or does the state organ's behavior implicitly indicate that they were sluggish in apprehending this communist organization and have not carried out their duty before the workers moved? Then, they will have to explain the political significance of this sluggishness because it is difficult to attribute it to indifference and lack of vigilance.

Second, even if we admit that we are facing a communist organization, there is no need to resort to the old rotten justification which says that believing in communism or joining a communist organization definitely, and automatically means believing in the use of violence. This justification no longer holds after the most prominent communist leader—Mikhail Gorbachev—began calling for a world free of wars and violence. Hence, it is no longer enough to say that joining a communist party means disavowing democracy or plotting to overthrow the government by force; there must be categorical evidence to prove that there is an intent to resort to violence. The charge of communism is no longer a justification which can be used to assume that the use of violence is intended without having categorical proof on this.

Third, there are some who wonder: Was the plan implemented by the state a "precautionary" step by which the state wanted to frighten and terrorize the political forces capable of supporting the workers or any other social force expected to be subjected to difficult circumstances at a time when the state has reached a semi-agreement with the IMF and the World Bank to lift the subsidiary? The prices are expected to rise in an unprecedented manner when the agreement is implemented.

Therefore, those who followed me with their questions—all of whom are Westerners who monitor the cause of freedom in Egypt as they do in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, China, and other Eastern bloc capitals—say that the coming phase is indeed a real test for the statements made by the state on its commitments to democracy and its ability to actually adhere to it when it is implemented.

The return to the use of the rotten justification—the justification of apprehending communist cells—is not something that ushers in good news.

Arab States Request UN Meeting on Expulsions

NC3008104989 Cairo MENA in English 0636 GMT 30 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo Aug 30 (MENA)—[Passage omitted] All three newspapers reported prominently on their front pages that the Arab states asked for the convocation of an urgent meeting by the [UN] Security Council to consider Israel's expulsion of five Palestinian citizens from the occupied Arab lands AL-AKHBAR said Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid gave urgent instruction to Ambassador 'Abd-al-Halim Badawi, Egypt's permanent delegate at the United Nations, to ask for an urgent interview with the UN secretary general, Perez de Cuellar, to take up with him the deteriorating situation in the occupied lands as a result of Israel's aggressive actions against the Palestinian people there and its repeated expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid instructed the Egyptian delegate to urge the UN secretary general to ensure protection of the Palestinian citizens living in the occupied lands against Israel's violent actions. [passage omitted]

Paper on Egyptian Plan To Solve Lebanon Crisis

JN3008172689 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 29 Aug 89 p 19

[Text] Informed sources have told AL-WATAN that Egypt has prepared a plan to solve the Lebanese crisis and that this plan will be discussed with some Arab parties, particularly Iraq, in the next few days. The Egyptian plan, for which Egypt is seeking support from the other Arab Cooperation Council states, includes the following points:

1. The major parties to the conflict in Lebanon will be invited to hold a meeting in one of the countries of the Arab tripartite committee members to present their ideas and views regarding the deteriorating situation in Lebanon. This is on condition that the meeting should take place away from any external influences and that Syria maintains complete neutrality toward the meeting and the ideas and views expressed in it.

2. The tripartite committee will continue to hold meetings with the parties to the conflict until the ordinary Arab summit convenes in Riyadh in January. The Riyadh summit will then discuss the results reached by the tripartite committee in the coming period.

3. A discussion will take place on the possibility of inviting the major parties to the conflict in Lebanon to attend the Arab summit in Riyadh.

The sources noted that President Mubarak presented the plan to Jordan's King Husayn during talks in Cairo last Sunday [27 August].

Egyptian Information Minister Dr Safwat al-Sharif said Egypt does not oppose the idea of holding an Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese crisis.

Paper Says Israeli Leaders 'Have Learned Nothing'

JN3108204889 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 30 Aug 89 p 5

[Editorial: "They Have Learned Nothing!"]

[Text] A smart politician is the one who learns from the lessons of remote and contemporary history, acts upon these lessons, draws up his plans in accordance with the conclusions drawn from these lessons, and refrains from using the methods whose failure has been proven in the past and in the present. A smart politician is also expected to learn from the mistakes committed by former politicians and leaders—from the mistakes whose consequences came to disappoint these politicians.

We do not accuse the Tel Aviv rulers of failing to read history. However, it is crystal clear that they have failed to learn the lessons which any reader can draw from such a reading, even if the reader were not engaged in politics and government affairs. The best evidence that we advance to corroborate this fact is that the Israeli leaders have continued to believe that repression and tyrannical rule can at all times, everywhere, and under all circumstances, quash any popular revolt and silence any voice that dares to demand freedom and call for dismantling illegal occupation.

From time to time, we witness a gradual escalation in the brute force being frenziedly used by the Israeli troops to quash the Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising] which has entered its 21st month.

However, the heroes of the Palestinian people's intifadah have proven to the entire world that they are firmer than many had expected and that they decided to hold out to the bitter end from the day they initiated their valiant intifadah, regardless of the number of martyrs who might fall, or the number of wounded, and irrespective of the difficulties and pains involved. From the beginning, the heroes of the intifadah have been fully aware that a heavy price has to be paid before freedom can be attained and that there will be no retreat despite the increase in the repression meted out to them.

Abu-Ghazalah, 'Ubayd To Visit France, FRG

NC0209175089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1401 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has said that Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, assistant to the president, and Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, will visit Paris and Bonn during the next few days on a working visit to discuss Egypt's relations with France and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Dr Sidqi talked to MENA after a meeting with President Mubarak today. He said that during the visits Abu-Ghazalah and 'Ubayd will also discuss ties between Egypt and international financial bodies, such as the IMF and the World Bank.

Mubarak Message Delivered

NC0309214289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Paris, 3 Sep (MENA)—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, assistant to the Egyptian president, arrived in Paris this evening carrying a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for French President Francois Mitterrand. The message basically pertains to bilateral relations between Egypt and France.

In addition, Abu-Ghazalah will meet with leading French officials, especially with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

Abu-Ghazalah is accompanied by a delegation comrising 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, and Dr Yusuf Butrus Ghali, adviser to Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

Upon his arrival in Paris, Abu-Ghazalah held a meeting with his delegation. The meeting was attended by Egyptian Ambassador in Paris Ahmad Sidqi, who told MENA that the visit by such a high-level delegation reflects the strong relations between the two countries as well as the strong and friendly ties between the Egyptian and French political leaders.

Extremist Religious Organization Members Arrested

NC3008123189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Yesterday security authorities in Cairo arrested members of an extremist religious organization that is led by a group of extremist leaders known for their extremist religious tendencies.

The organization used to lure children under the guise of religion, instill extremist ideas in them, and make them join extremist religious groups.

The organization's leaders rented four apartments in the city of Alexandria to assemble 80 children between 6 and 7 years of age from several governorates, to prepare them by relaying some extremist ideas about religion.

The organization's leaders assigned an individual to train each group of children in the four apartments used as a training camp and to assemble the children at different times.

The security authorities arrested the members of the organization along with the children and referred them to the state security investigation authorities in the governorates.

Seven of the organization's leaders, members of the extremist groups, and 24 children from Al-Jizah Governorate have been referred to the state security investigation headquarters in Al-Jizah. These children were rounded up from the mosques; their parents were told the children were being taken on a 4-day trip to Alexandria last Saturday. The security authorities kept the organization leaders and the children under surveillance until they were arrested in Alexandria.

The seven organization leaders are: 'Abd-al-Rahman Salih Muhammad Ahmad, an employee in the fertilizer company in Hulwan; Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Muhammad, a student; Hamdi 'Abd-al-Salam Imam, a student at the Islamic Call College; 'Ala' Muhammad Ali Mahmud, a teacher at the private Islamic al-Tala'i' school; 'Abd-al-Nasir 'Atiyah Yusuf, a student at the Cairo law college; Hamdi Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid, a university student; and 'Ala'-al-Din Rizq 'Abd-al-Maqsud, a student at the Cairo law college.

Interior Minister Zaki Badr has issued instructions to the officials in the state security investigation departments to release the children immediately and to hand them over to their parents. The state security investigation authorities have begun investigating the leaders of the organization before referring them to the supreme state security prosecution.

Court Sentences Fundamentalist Group Members

NC0209123889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0832 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—The Supreme State Security Court today passed judgment against 33 defendants in the case of group known as "Those Delivered From the Fire."

The court sentenced 5 defendants to life imprisonment with hard labor, 4 defendants to 10 years imprisonment with hard labor, 7 defendants to 7 years imprisonment with hard labor, 2 defendants to 5 years imprisonment, 7 defendants to 3 years imprisonment, and 1 defendant to 1 year imprisonment. The court acquitted 7 defendants.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers National Day Speech

LD0109125389 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1108 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Libyan revolution at the People's Hall in Tripoli—live]

[Text] [Chanting] Okay, okay. In the name of God. On this historic day, I shall speak for 2 or 3 minutes only. I welcome the brothers and friends, leaders of the liberation movements and leaders of the revolutionary countries, as well as leaders of the fraternal and friendly and

allied countries, and leaders of the peace movements and the new alternative movement [Harakat al-Badil], the world Green Movement.

I request you, brother secretaries of the people's conferences, the popular committees and people's conferences, members of the General People's Conference, to forgive your brothers in the Arab countries who could not come personally and who expressed their sharing of your celebrations, their presence with you, and their steadfastness with you by sending high-level delegations who are now here with you in this hall. We must appreciate and cherish their action and forgive our brothers because of the circumstances that prevented them from coming here. The same applies to the non-Arab countries which are participating with high-level delegations but whose presidents could not come.

On this historic day, we Libyan men and women cannot find the words to express our utmost admiration and appreciation to the leaders who have come from all the world's continents, the delegations which have come from the world's five or six continents—depending on the way you calculate the number of the world's continents—and the liberation movements which cover all areas of struggle between the freedom fighters and the enemies of freedom everywhere in the world, as well as the Green Movement, who have come in large numbers and which we welcomed as they came by ship over the sea, and the alternative movements, who also have come to celebrate this historic day in the free land of Libya. We brothers cannot find the words to express our utmost appreciation, gratitude, and admiration to you for joining us here despite your preoccupations and your preparedness to attend the nonaligned conference which is to be held in Yugoslavia and your being busy with preparations for this conference in addition to your other preoccupations in your countries, and in spite of the distances and the differences in climate and weather. Yet you have come today to join us on this historic day. We greatly appreciate this. We feel anything we can do for you is far less than your action in joining us here.

The Libyan men and women will never forget your presence with them on this historic day. We will make it a point to return your good deeds on your national days and celebrations. We will also be with you [applause] not only through thin but also through thick and through hard times. We will be with you in the trenches fighting. This is something expected and is a duty of Libyan men and women to you. [applause]

We feel proud, brothers, to see this day, the great 1 September, becoming a universal day. But to reply to any ignoramus who asks why this day should become a universal day, we say briefly: Nobody but a fanatic or ignoramus can deny the tangible effect the 1 September revolution has had on all parts of the world. We were not the ones to declare this fact. The big powers, the imperialist powers, racism, Zionism, and the enemies of the peoples were the ones who declared this.

Reagan's America has complained that a new Libya has risen at its threshhold called Nicaragua and called Grenada. It occupied Grenada and fought against Libya, against this day, fought against the 1 September revolution. The United States believes that Nicaragua is another Libya on its threshhold. This is what the Americans declared to the world. It was not we who claimed this.

They mined the shores of Nicaragua and they boycotted it. They rejected the decision of the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. The United States is rebellious against the ICJ. It refused to accept the court's decision. It beseiged it economically and militarily with its fleets. But as our brother Ortega has stated, Reagan is gone and Nicaragua stands fast and so does Ortega and they are still there. [applause]

The United States has now posed as a condition for talks with Libya that Libya define its position on the problem of Panama. This means that Libya is present in Panama, that the 1 September revolution is present in Panama. We say this: We will not withdraw from our position of fully and absolutely supporting the cause of the people of Panama [applause] in confronting U.S. imperialism.

On the other hand, France was the one to announce that Libya was interfering in the affairs of the islands of the Pacific Ocean. Imagine: France is in Europe, and the Pacific Ocean islands are in the Pacific Ocean; and Libya is destabilizing the Pacific Ocean. What does this mean? This means that the Libyan revolution, the Al-Fatih revolution has entered the Pacific Ocean, inciting peoples to seek freedom, supporting the small peoples whose islands France has turned into a nuclear test site. To whom have these peoples to turn? They have turned to Libya; they did not turn to the United States. This is a fact. They turned to Libya, and Libya has backed them up.

The United States is a superpower, but one does not see these small peoples seeking the protection of the United States against France, against nuclear tests, against colonial intervention, against the massacres in New Caledonia. They have come to Libya. Despite the fact that Libya is not in the Pacific Ocean, it is against colonialism; it supports freedom, and the small peoples have turned to it. This is a fact. The peoples of Africa know this. We were the ones, this revolution was the one, that vaccinated 12 million African children against diseases, against polio. It was not the United States. [applause]

Thus, the United States wants Libya to define its position on the problem of Palestine, saying that Libya must recognize Israel. There is no question of recognizing Israel. What is called Israel is a usurping entity, a vestige of World War II which must be removed just as the other vestiges of World War II have been removed. Palestine is for the Palestinians. [applause; chanting]

This is a firm cause. The United States is not worried about a summit conference in Casablanca or Fes or Amman or even a summit conference in Libya. What worries the United States is the Libyan stand that states that liberation should take place from the river to the sea

[the Jordan river to the Mediterranean Sea]. Why does this worry the United States? Because it allies itself with the Israelis against the Arabs, and because it believes that the Israelis are right and the others are wrong. We do not accept the division of the world on a religious basis. What right do the Jews have in the city of Acre? This is an Arab city. What historic right do they have in this city? This concerns the issue of struggle.

The 1 September revolution has won international acclaim, and the free people of the world are now celebrating this day. All the peoples know and mark this day: The Green Movement, the peace movements, and the new alternative movements have not traveled by boat to another place to mark a national day; they have come to a place where an international day is being marked.

Secondly, the social theories are not Libyan theories. When one says that the house should belong to the resident, this is not a Libyan slogan, because Libyans do not suffer from this problem. The theory that a house should belong to the person residing in it should be applied worldwide. This is an international theory. Land should belong to everybody. This is not a land where there are rivers and plenty of rainfall. This slogan concerns the farmers and the slaves of the land everywhere in the world. Nobody can represent the people—not only the Libyan people but all other peoples; representation is a forgery. Today, everyone responds to these theories.

Stemming from this point, this revolution has acquired an international character. Wage earners should become partners—not only the Libyan wage earners, because they have no problem perhaps—but millions of wage earners all over the world should become partners. There is no doubt that the whole world will become a jamahiri in the future; people's congresses and committees will be set up all over the world. This is inevitable! [applause] Wage earners will become partners inevitably. The masses everywhere will march toward power on a large scale and with a historic determination. They are marching toward authority and will not stop half way. The masses will reach authority and will form people's congresses and committees in every corner of the world. Governments, classes, parliaments, parties, armies, police forces, and all official instruments of oppression will vanish. They will be replaced by the masses alone. This is the inevitable fate of the whole world. This is the international aspect of the revolution. These are the natural laws as put forward by the revolution.

This is not oppression; oppression brought about the world of exploitation, of supression, and the world of the colonizer and the colonized. This is oppression and intervention. As for the natural law, it is one of freedom and equality. It is this law upon which the revolution relies, and it will inevitably win.

The establishment of governments instead of peoples is a waste of time. The deputization for the people is a waste of time. It is a waste of time for a group to rule the people. This is a waste of time. The people will inevitably attain the authority. It is a waste of time and means more sacrifices, no more, no less. The future is clear to us. We will make a prophecy to all the peoples of the earth: The peoples are marching toward authority and they will establish people's conferences and people's committees and all else shall definitely disappear. This is settled!

All wage earners shall become partners. In the United States there are 9,000 companies owned by 9 million workers since 1982, since the publication of "The Green Book." The U.S. (Nilson) Steel Company in West Virginia was on the verge of bankruptcy until it became owned by the workers. The biggest steel company in the United States is owned by the workers and is now the most successful. This has encouraged 9,000 other companies to pass the ownership of their shares to the workers. This means that the dictum "wage earners shall become partners" [quote from "The Green Book"] is an inevitable necessity for releasing productive incentive.

Exploitation kills production, kills incentives. The slaves have been freed. Mankind has grown up, no one can deceive it any longer. "The Green Book" heralds this maturity of mankind. Twelve companies in Britain have changed over from the system of wage earners to the system of partners. They called it "popular capitalism." This is, in fact, popular socialism. The green perestroyka has emerged in the Soviet Union. It has been announced in the Soviet Union that the house belongs to the one who lives in it. Gorbachev has daringly announced the law of cooperatives. This is all due to the influence of the third universal theory and "The Green Book."

Anyone who asks why the great Soviet Union and the United States, the two superpowers, will follow the third universal theory must be an ignoramus! What, then, are the theories which the Soviet Union and the United States are following? What theories are recognized by the United States? Marx did not have missiles. He was a poor man. But here the great Soviet Union has adopted the principles of Marx.

Well, I wrote a rather small book. Anyone who asks how a theory like this can come out of Libya and from this region—from a small and a poor country—is an ignoramus. When Jean Jacques Rousseau, who left behind all those theories which are being followed throughout the world, when he died only two people accompanied his body to the cemetery—one was a relative and the other was a friend. Now millions celebrate his birthday and commemorate his death. Zoroaster, Bhudda, Christ, and Muhammad: Were they Ceasars? No, they were ordinary people. Their theories are being followed throughout the world because they preached righteousness. The United States recognizes Christianity, but who was Christ? He was a fugitive. He did not even have a father. He was a fugitive and was named after his mother: Jesus, the son of Mary. The theories which will change the world are those of the poor people and of ordinary people—the oppressed, the needy, and the toiling people—who can change the hopes, the dreams, and the suffering of

millions into realities and ideologies which change the world. And this what is happening now.

We have here an ideology which will change the life of the world. The world will become a jamahiri in defiance of anyone who is ignorant and rancorous. [applause] This is how today has become an international day and a slogan for all peoples, and not only the Libyan people.

Libya is, furthermore, convinced that it is able to support its international revolutionary program. When it comes to fighting, we have already fought against a superpower: We stopped the United States from entering the Gulf of Sidra. Economically, we are a rich country which is able to supply the international struggle with supplies and support until it is victorious. Its victory is also ours! [applause]

We are delighted to announce here to all freedom fighters in Nicaragua, Panama, New Caledonia, Reunion, Mayotte, South Africa, Namibia, Palestine, Caledonia [as heard], French Guyana, and in Central America, we happily announce to them that your ally is becoming stronger and will not abandon you. We will be victorious, we will surely end up victorious. [applause; chanting] The empires of colonialism are now in the trash can of history. Those who conquered the world, like Alexander the Great, Hitler, Mussolini, and Reagan, who thought too much of themselves, are in the trash can of history. The peoples were victorious! This theory is the theory of the peoples. Therefore this is the theory which one should bet on. The struggle continues! [applause]

Nicaragua's Ortega Lauds Al-Qadhdhafi, Libya

LD0109200189 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1033 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Speech by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega at meeting of Libyan General People's Congress in Tripoli on 1 September; Ortega speech translated from original Spanish—live]

[Text] I do not have the good fortune of speaking Arabic and you do not speak Spanish, but we have the good fortune of speaking the language of peoples. [applause] The language of peoples is the language of independence, of sovereignty, of revolution. [applause] You are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Al-Fatih revolution, and we who have fought for liberation, as well as the peoples who are still fighting to achieve independence, still fighting for their self-determination, are celebrating it with you. We, the Sandinist revolutionaries of Nicaragua, are celebrating this 20th anniversary; [applause] we the revolutionaries of Latin America and the Caribbean. We are also celebrating it with the heroic Palestinian people, with the heroic people of Namibia, and with the heroic people of South Africa.

You, Libyan brothers, know how to resist and how to win. With brother Al-Qadhdhafi, we have shared difficult moments, hard moments, moments of grief, but we also rejoice at this 20th anniversary of the Al-Fatih revolution. [applause] We peoples have a sole enemy: Imperialism. [applause] Imperialism has made war on the Libyan people as it has made war on the Nicaraguan people. Reagan has greatly harmed the Libyan people. Reagan tried to kill the revolution in Libya; Reagan tried to kill the revolution in Nicaragua. But where is Reagan now? [applause] Reagan had to go and Al-Qadhdhafi remained in Libya. [applause] Reagan had to go and the Libyan people are today proudly celebrating the 20th anniversary of its revolution. [applause] This has been made possible by the steadfastness of brother Al-Qadhdhafi, by the steadfastness of the Libyan people, because of the justice which is on the side of the Libyan people, and because of historic right, which is also on the side of the Libyan people.

Libyan brothers, I bring you the solidarity in arms of the people of Sandino. [applause] We are facing the same enemy in different trenches. We must unite to defeat that enemy and then victory will be assured for all peoples. The enemy tries to divide us. The enemy has succeeded in dividing us. But we are obliged to unite to save the future of our peoples.

Long live the Al-Fatih revolution! [applause]
Long live the people of Libya! [applause]
United, we—Libya and Nicaragua—will triumph! [applause]
United, we, the peoples of the Third World, will triumph! [applause]

Al-Qadhdhafi Cited on Ties With Syria, Egypt

JN0309064889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, has said: We are agreed with Syria on strategic issues. As for the daily and changeable applications, we might, at different times, agree on some things and differ on others. He indicated that geography, regrettably, has obstructed the forging of unity between the two countries.

In an interview with the magazine AL-MAWQIF AL-'ARABI published today, Al-Qadhdhafi said that Libya's position on the Lebanese nationalist movement is firm and irreversible. He described the isolationist Phalangist institution in Lebanon as too weak to settle the conflict in its favor. He added that this fact has prompted it to ally itself to Israel and the West.

Col al-Qadhdhafi confirmed the absence of official ties with Egypt and pointed out that it is difficult for him to visit Cairo as long as the Israeli Embassy is there.

Pakistan's Bhutto Sends Letter to Al-Qadhdhafi

BK0409091989 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] The federal minister for railways, Haji Zafar Ali Khan Leghari, has delivered a personal letter of the

prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, addressed to the Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, through a member of the Libyan Command Council, Colonel Mustafa Kharubi, in Tripoli. The minister, currently representing Pakistan at the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Libyan revolution, also called on the Libyan minister of science and technology, Dr Nuri al-Fayturi al-Madani, and discussed with him matters of mutual interest. A Parliamentary delegation headed by Senator Jahangir Shah Jogezai and a Pakistan People's Party delegation led by Secretary General Sheikh Rafiq Ahmed also attended the celebrations.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Cited on 'Unconditional' Talks

LD0309110889 Kuwait KUNA in English 0828 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, Sept 3 (KUNA)—Chairman of Sudanese Revolution Command Council Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir expressed his government's readiness to hold direct unconditional talks with rebels in south Sudan, Radio Nile Vally reported Sunday [3 September].

The radio said this announcement was made by the Sundanese leader on his arrival last night in Khartoum coming from Libya, where he attended that Arab country's celebrations on its 20th revolution anniversary.

According to the radio, Al-Bashir discussed this proposal with the Ugandan president, during their meeting in the Libyan capital.

Uganda's president promised Al-Bashir that he will convey that to rebel leader John Garang.

The Sudanese leader denied that Sudan's Armed Forces are getting ready to launch an attack on the rebels, the radio said.

Al-Bashir Claims 'Many' Rebels Surrender

EA0309172189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Amhad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has stated that security in the south of the country is stable and that both the government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] are committed to a cease-fire except in some areas, where isolated incidents have occurred. His excellency said everyone is now convinced that the war must end.

Referring to the results of the general amnesty declared during the first few days after the inception of the national salvation revolution, he said many of the Movement's officers and other ranks have surrendered with their arms to various units of the Armed Forces.

Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir stressed that the extension of the cease-fire by the government would encourage people to enter the stage of negotiations.

On the persistent reports that Colonel John Garang is seeking to transfer his camps from Ethiopia to Uganda following the improvement of Ethiopian-Sudanese relations and Sudanese efforts to achieve peace in Ethiopia, the chairman of the RCC said: The people's movement is bent on intensifying its operations during the next stage within the Equatoria area in the south, but cannot do so unless it obtains... [incomplete sentence as heard]

He stated that during a meeting on the sidelines of the celebrations of the Jamahiriyah's 20th anniversary of the 1 September revolution, the Ugandan president had assured him that he was not and would not be providing the Movement with any facilities. He said this because of his desire for stability in Sudan and because of the special relationship between him and President Museveni. The Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, had also brought up this matter with the Ugandan president.

However, Lt Gen al-Bashir stressed that the national salvation revolution was earnestly endeavoring to strengthen the Armed Forces, not with a view to war, but rather to the preservation of peace.

His excellency and accompanying delegation arrived home from Libya yesterday after participating in celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the 1 September revolution.

Lt Gen al-Bashir also stressed that the relevant authorites are actively engaged in drawing up new laws to govern trade unions and industrial and production relations. He said the drafting of such laws requires patient study so as to avoid any loopholes tending to damage trade union activities. He explained that some trade unions such as the Farmers' Union and the Workers' Union have already been reinstated [words indistinct]. Many committees have been formed to examine the other trade unions to ensure that their social security and charitable activities are not interrupted at this stage. He said the relevant authorities will consult with the preparatory committees over drawing up the trade union laws and, following approval of those laws, elections will be held to form the trade unions.

Rebel Forces Vow To Fight To Topple Junta

EA0309175189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Hello listeners: As you all probably know, the present Khartoum government is no different from its predecessors and, as I have said before, these people all have the same background. [passage omitted]

The new Khartoum regime has produced no new ideas for the Sudanese people. The aim of the coup was simply

to exacerbate the sufferings to the Sudanese people, and that is exactly what the former leaders did.

Another thing you ought to know is that when Al-Bashir seized power in Khartoum, he announced a 1-month cease-fire, saying that within that month, people should negotiate for a peaceful agreement. However, we wish to inform you that during the 1-month cease-fire, Al-Bashir never came to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] to arrange peace talks. On the contrary, listeners, Al-Bashir seized power to impose his backward conception of Islamic law on the Sudanese people rather than to seek a lasting solution of our problems.

I hereby stress that we of the SPLA will fight until the regime in Khartoum is toppled and then solve all the problems facing our country, Sudan. We shall resist these people unless they discard the bad ideas they are trying to impose on the Sudanese people. We will go on fighting until the Sudanese people achieve a just peace.

'Broad-Based, Democratic' Government Urged

AB0109085589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The leader of the clique has announced in Baghdad—not Khartoum—that he will fight if peace negotiations with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement fail. He said he is neither prepared to rescind the September laws nor the military agreements.

First, the clique is not in a position to threaten war. They neither possess the men, nor have they support from the Army or from the mass movement. There are two armies: One was disbanded. It was largely made up of patriotic elements. The other is the regular Army, which the leaders of the clique cannot deploy even as their personal bodyguards. This Army will not fight. They are not men of war. Their Muslim brother leaders are all living in luxury and beautiful gardens. They have [words indistinct]. They do not wish to part with this temporal world. After all these experiences, no one can threaten the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA]. This military council has no authority. It is nothing but a shadow council of Muslim brothers.

Second, you are not going to fight the SPLA alone. You will fight the whole of Sudan, because the entire Sudanese people are against you. So, discard these pseudo-saber rattlings which cannot kill a fly.

Third, how many experienced, royalist [as heard] officers have been completely eliminated over the past 10 years? [passage omitted]

Did you not know, you mental defectives, that over 1,000 soldiers and 30 officers are in captivity? [passage omitted] This concerns the Army. Keep away from us. Leave the leaders of the clique to the leaders of the Army. We promise you that we will safeguard their lives while they are in captivity, till such time as the leaders of the Islamic Front learn that our people cannot be muzzled by mindless, stupid people like the leaders of the Islamic Front. [passage omitted]

As for this talk in Baghdad about secession, these claims that they are for greater Arab unity and that Sudan is an Arab country, the one who has nothing can give nothing. How can you be a secessionist, aiming to shave off the south and unite the Arabs? You cannot even unite the military council of which you are the head, let alone achieve the greater Arab unity. [passage indistinct]

The repeal of the foreign military agreements and the September laws have been demanded by all political forces ever since the uprising. All the agreements and initiatives provide for this. We say for the thousandth time that there can be no peace unless past peace steps are continued—no peace without the return of democracy and freedom of activity for all political forces and unions, without the freeing of detainees, and a broad-based, democratic government. May the cowards get no sleep.

Al-Bashir Returns From Libyan Celebrations

AB0209213889 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Sep (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, returned to Khartoum from Tripoli this evening, following a 3-day visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during which he attended celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of Libya's 1 September revolution.

Gen 'Umar met the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, at his residence in Tripoli shortly before departure. Member of the RCC, Staff Colonel al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir, who accompanied the lieutenant general on his visit to the Jamahiriyah, was present at the meeting.

In a statement to SUNA, the Libyan leader said he and Gen 'Umar had discussed relations between his country and Sudan. He assured the general of the Jamahiriyah's support for Sudan in various fields, so that it can achieve its national objectives. Al-Bashir told SUNA that his meeting with Col Qadhdhafi was to bid farewell and confirm some points already agreed on. He said the Jamahiriyah supports Sudan in various fields.

Al-Bashir referred to the eternal nature of relations between the Sudanese and Libyan peoples. He said these relations had developed and flourished ever since the revolution of 1 September 1969, and that they were not influenced by tension or the severance o political relations during various critical periods. Relations between the two peoples continued, as the generous treatment of Sudanese people living in Libya during those periods testifies.

Gen al-Bashir said the participation of the entire Libyan people in the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the glorious 1 September revolution had amazed all the

foreign delegations attending the celebrations. Yet the greatest surprise was the people's armed parade, which demonstrated to all those present the determination of the Libyan people to protect and defend its revolution.

Gen 'Umar was seen off at Tripoli International Airport by a member of the historic leadership of the 1 September revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus; a number of officials in the Jamahiriyah; and by RCC member Colonel al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir, who arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening. He will remain behind to continue celebrating with the Libyan people. Tomorrow Lt Gen 'Umar will lead the country's delegation to the nonaligned summit, which will be held in the Yugoslav capital, Belgrade, from 4 to 7 September.

Al-Banna Sentenced to 40 Years' Imprisonment

EA0209204789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Special court number three held its third sitting in Omdurman today, in the case of the accused, Idris 'Abdallah al-Banna, member of the dissolved State Council. It was presided over by Colonel 'Abd-al-Wahhab Ahmad 'Uthman. The other members were Colonel Lutfi 'Abd-al-Rahman and Lieutenant Colonel Sa'id Rajab Sa'id.

The accused asked the court for a defense counsel and a grace period so that the defense counsel could obtain all the necessary documents for the defense. The court refused this request. The charges against him were read out. They were: Sabotage of the national economy, squandering of public funds, and fraud. The court also heard the prosecution witness Ahmad Zakaria, an engineer at the rural water development authority, who told the court about the current condition of the dredger and its material value. The court then heard the director general of the customs department, who answered the questions about customs and legal regulations applying to the sale of goods eligible for customs exemptions.

The accused refused to say anything during the sitting. The court read out the charges against him. The accused pleaded not guilty.

The court sentenced the accused, Idris 'Abdallah al-Banna, to 20 years' imprisonment and confiscation of all his property, on a charge of economic sabotage, in contravention of Article 98B of the 1983 penal code. He was imprisoned for another 10 years on a charge of squandering public funds, in contravention of Article 351A of the 1983 Penal Code. He was imprisoned for another 10 years on a charge of fraud, in contravention of Article 362 of the 1983 penal code. The [word indistinct] will be confiscated by the Sudanese Government. So, the full sentence is 40 years imprisonment and deprivation of all his rights.

PDRY

Party Leader Addresses State Security Personnel

EA0409175089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bayd, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, hailed the leadership and personnel of state security at celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the establishment of state security. In his valuable lecture, read yesterday evening in the hall of the 'Abdallah Badi Institute for Scientific Socialism before the leadership and men of state security, the secretary general highly evaluated the historic role played by the state security organ in strengthening the security and the stability of the country by combating all forms of conspiracies and repelling the various dangers from the deviations of right- and left-wing opportunists, who have tried to strike at the revolution and overthrow national democratic rule and the socialist-oriented ideology of the country.

In his lecture, the secretary general said the celebration of such an occasion was a juncture where our struggle, the efforts, and sacrifices of our party and the masses of our great people in the past should be evaluated. He said the coming period was a period of comprehensive political and economic reform, which will present greater tasks for state security men, and which will demand more efforts and new methods.

The brother secretary general said reform will produce fruits in the future regarding the improvement of our general condition. He said reform is not a ready-made stage and, therefore, we must discuss the directions with the masses of our people.

He added: In the past, the revolution was exposed to mistakes. Therefore, we have to correct the mistakes so that we can proceed with the revolution. He said the reform document must be applied practically and to locate errors. The secretary general referred to the importance of engaging in reform without retreating from it or transforming it into slogans. It must be transformed into a tangible operation in the life of the masses. He affirmed the need for party combatants to regain the spirit of combat in all places of labor and production.

The brother secretary general stressed the importance of raising the effectiveness of existing economic establishments, of encouraging export in agriculture and fishing and other fields, of improving the performance and the administration of other economic establishments, road maintenance, educational and health establishments, of exerting more efforts to exploit natural resources so as to progress with comprehensive, sure steps. The brother secretary general also affirmed the importance of granting necessary assistance to individual activity in agriculture, fisheries, and minerals, pointing to the importance of applying current legislation, and of adhering with pride to all that has been achieved during the years of the victorious revolution.

It is worth mentioning that the lecture was attended by brother Sa'id Salih, member of the Politburo and minister of state security; Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Central Committee and assistant secretary general; (?Hasan 'Ali) member of the Central Committee and deputy minister of state security; and a number of officials of the leadership of the State Security Ministry.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Postpones Visit to United States

LD0409193189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1909 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Jeddah, 4 Sep (SPA)—The Royal Court issued the following statement today, Monday:

Statement from the Royal Court:

During the past few days, contacts took place between King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and George Bush, President of the United States, concerning the issue of Lebanon and the importance of achieving a cease-fire and establishing significant political bases for ending the Lebanese tragedy.

In light of the current situation in the Lebanese arena and the urgent need for reviving the efforts of the supreme Arab tripartite committee, which stemmed from Casablanca summit, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and U.S. President George Bush agreed to postpone the king's visit to Washington until a suitable date, which will be fixed at a later time.

The two leaders also agreed that it is important that the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee should succeed, and President George Bush stressed that the United States is standing by these efforts.

Yemen Arab Republic

Foreign Minister Receives Senator Durenberger

JN0209154689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Irayni, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, today received a U.S. Senate delegation under Senator Dave Durenberger. During the meeting, they discussed spheres of cooperation between our country and the United States.

The meeting was attended by a number of Consultative Council members and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Ramadan Speaks, Departs for Nonaligned Summit

JN0309134489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad for Belgrade this afternoon to head Iraq's delegation to the ninth conference of the Nonaligned Movement, which will open there tomorrow.

In a statement to INA, Ramadan said that during the conference, the Iraqi delegation will stress the need to adhere to the movement's principles and charters. He also said that these principles do not equate aggressor countries with countries that suffer from aggression, or countries that honestly and seriously want and seek just and legitimate peace with countries that create obstacles to peace.

Ramadan also said that Iraq, which will participate in this summit crowned with garlands of victory over the Iranian aggressors, their agents, and masters, will center on the need for the Nonaligned Movement countries to implement the movement's charters and goals. These need to be implemented when bringing about a lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran, restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, establishing an independent Palestinian state, supporting the intifadah [uprising] against the Zionist occupiers, achieving stability and security in Lebanon, and liberating Lebanon from the Syrian, Iranian, and Zionist military forces.

Ramadan also affirmed that the Arab Cooperation Council countries will unify their positions on the Arab and international issues to be discussed at the summit, and will coordinate with the fraternal and friendly countries in harmony with the movement's charters and goals as well as the principles of peace and justice.

He added that Iraq, as one of the movement's founder countries, reiterates its deep concern about this movement as well as its serious attempts to promote its role in the international arena through its conferences, because Iraq believes that the movement is capable of creating international atmospheres characterized by justice, cooperation, and peace. He also expressed his hope that the movement's resolutions will take into account the pressing military and political challenges in several parts of the world.

Al-Jalabi Interviewed on Pipeline, Oil Industry

JN3008204489 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 29 Aug 89 p 17

[Interview with Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi by Muhammad al-Duhaym in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Duhaym] The Iraqi pipeline through Saudi territories will be inaugurated next month. How do you view this project?

[Al-Jalabi] The Iraqi pipeline is one of the major results of fraternal cooperation between the two countries. However, it is nothing new since the custodian of the two holy mosques (may God protect him) opened the doors of the Kingdom to Iraq under the difficult war circumstances. As President Saddam Husayn said, had the help offered Iraq by the custodian of the two holy mosques been given during times of peace, things would have been different. The Kingdom's honorable stand was taken during very difficult years. The stand of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and that of the Kingdom were honorable and appreciated and helped implement this project. Moreover, the Kingdom placed its installations at the disposal of Iraq when the first stage of the project, which was accomplished in September 1985, was linked to the east-west pipeline with a capacity of 500,000 barrels per day. This pipeline began operation and continues to operate very well as a result of cooperation and coordination with the Saudi Arabian Petroleum Company and the brother officials at the Saudi Petroleum Ministry, as well as the noble stands adopted by all the state departments. All concerned ministries and departments—the Ministries of Interior, Communications, Agriculture, and the General Ports Corporation—have cooperated with us beyond limits.

After the completion of the first stage, work began on the second stage, which will increase the project's capacity from 500,000 barrels to 1,650,000 barrels a day, praised be God, although the time fixed for the completion of this project was relatively short; it was 24 months and the contract was signed in September 1987. Through the cooperation of all departments in the Kingdom we managed to accomplish this tremendous project which includes laying 950 km of 48-56 inch caliber pipes, and building refining units, storage and loading port facilities, and sea loading piers. God willing, the first tanker will be loaded in September of this year at the port associated with this project, whereas loading used to be carried out at the piers in Yanbu'. Last month I made a field tour of the project in the company of His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and a number of Saudi officials, and we were acquainted with the progress of the work. As a matter of fact, this pipeline is considered a source of pride for the oil industry in the two sisterly countries. It was agreed that the Saudi Arabian Oil Company will administer, operate, and maintain this large project for the Iraqi Oil Ministry and the Saudi General Ports Corporation will offer services related to the loading of tankers.

[Al-Duhaym] The Gulf petrochemical industries, including the Iraqi industries, are facing problems in entering Western markets as strong, good competitors. What do you see as the best way to overcome the circumstances and obstacles, and will Iraq compete in world markets?

[Al-Jalabi] Regarding petrochemical industries in Iraq, it is well known that we began in the late seventies to

engage in major projects, the largest of which was petrochemical complex No 1 in Basra which was completed and resumed operation after the cease-fire. It is now in operation and production. However, during the 8-year war and as a result of increasing local consumption demands, the products of this complex will meet only a small part of Iraq's needs. Therefore, the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization, which is responsible for petrochemical industries, has begun to build new projects in the petrochemical industries and related fields.

When these projects are completed, a large number of them will be used for local consumption and the rest for export. Consequently, Iraq cannot enter into competitive markets now because its production only meets a small part of its needs. However, [words indistinct] the stand of the countries that consume Arab countries' products and closely monitor these stands and developments. Coordination and cooperation are necessary to adopt the stands that will freely open markets for Arab products.

We do not call for any special treatment as much as call for the free competition that we give to their products when propagated in the Arab markets. I believe that these issues could be decided because there are mutual interests among countries, and consequently, Arab petrochemical products must be accepted.

But, the fact is that the Saudi industry stood strongly in the face of foreign industry competition. We hope that the Saudi industry as well as the Gulf industry will succeed in this field.

[Al-Duhaym] It has been reiterated that there are new oil prospects in Iraq. Do you believe that these prospects will affect the balance of the Iraqi industry capacity and will Iraq exploit these discoveries at the present time?

[Al-Jalabi] Iraq will remain strong as it always was. And everybody will find out that the years of war have strengthened Iraq's determination. Iraq will not only compensate for the past years, but will add to them. Despite the difficult conditions of the war years, construction and development in Iraq did not stop but did slow down in some aspects. For the past year and since the cease-fire, the construction and rehabilitation projects in the Iraqi cities, and infrastructure projects for railroads, highways, and industry are noticeable.

Everybody will notice that the achievements will continue at a faster pace than before. Now, we are capable of accomplishing the work within half the time or even less than required in the past. In the industry field, Iraq will witness big developments in various fields. And in the petroleum field, Iraq maintained—throughout the years of the war—its production capacity. And the export facilities that were exposed to aggression, particularly the maritime installations on the Arabian Gulf, are being repaired in stages. The first stage has been accomplished and Al-Bakr Port is now being used for exporting crude oil. Next year, Iraq's exportation capacity will be greater than the past.

In the field of oil refining and manufacturing, Iraq made great progress during the war years. Refinery capacity has increased threefold since before the war, and the manufacturing of lubricants has increased five times. The same thing applies to the rest of the areas, particularly in gas manufacturing and usage within the industry.

We notice in the past, many projects were completed and others are operational at the present time.

With regard to oil prospects, Iraq has made great progress during the past years. Prospecting operations, seismographic operations, and drilling continued not only for production purposes but also for estimating Iraqi oil reserves. On 1 January 1988, the figures announced put Iraqi oil reserves at 100 billion barrels. These figures were modest because new figures were added to them, but not announced. We will announce these figures after compiling all studies on subterranean deposits of crude oil. What I would like to affirm is that there are big reserves to be added to these figures—reserves that were neither exploited nor used in production because there is no need for them.

Caution Urged in Gulf States Improving Iran Ties

JN0309104089 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Sept. 3, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today says signing a comprehensive and clear-cut peace agreement between Iraq and Iran gurantees creation of security, stability and confidence in the area. It will spontaneously lead to improve Iran's relations with its neighbours.

In an article published today, the paper added that under Iran's maintaining of the prusuit of manoeuvering and blocking the process of peace, the task of improving these relations would be difficult and collide with more than a barrier.

The paper made it clear that during the past year, Iran has seen important variables. The more prominent of those changeables were its complete defeat in the war, Khomeyni's death and Hashemi-Rafsanjani's taking over full powers in Iran. But the political approach of the ruling regime remained as it were till now.

AL-THAWRAH daily affirms that without altering the former political pursuit and giving up the illusions and slogans, which proved to be a fiasco, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's regime would not be able to convince any one in the Arab Gulf that Iran is really desirous for improving its relations with the neighbours.

The paper concluded its article by pointing out it would be a sound political calculation of Arab Gulf states to be

cautious and aware and very careful towards the question of improving their relations with Iran. Establishment of comprehensive, durable and just peace between Iraq and Iran and in the entire area, would be the essential and decisive condition for improving these relations, if Iran is really and actually serious and desirous for improving its relations. [passage omitted]

Editorial Says Lebanese Reject Syrian Presence

JN0209073689 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0624 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says the Syrian regime's current alliances in Lebanon are transient and vulnerable since their primary aim is to divide and destroy Lebanon.

In an editorial today entitled "National Accord and the Syrian Occupation's Guns," the paper adds: The Syrian regime's claim that it is interested in achieving national accord is refuted daily by the facts and the presence of the Syrian invasion forces and their truncheons, which are raised over the heads of Lebanese groups and individuals. It is also refuted by the Syrian regime's refusal to withdraw its forces from Lebanon or confine them to a single, specific place. In other words, the national accord must take place under Syrian occupation and the terrorism of the Syrian forces.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: No Lebanese has confidence in the Syrian regime, even those who pretend to be its allies. The Syrian regime is rejected and condemned by the silent majority which has suffered from murder, destruction, starvation, and destitution, and is awaiting salvation and a solution from the Arabs.

The paper adds: The Arab states also have no confidence in the Syrian regime and its claims, especially after the tripartite committee's report has exposed its true attitude toward the efforts to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions. Thus, the Syrian regime's claims about wanting to achieve national accord are sheer nonsense.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes: Now that everyone has discovered and fully understood the truth, the few Arab governments which pay lip service to the Syrian regime—based on narrow-minded concepts and calculations—will not help the Syrian regime implement the Zionist anti-Arab conspiracy on the land of Lebanon.

'Terrorist' Infiltrates From Jordan 2 Sep

TA0209202089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was killed in a clash with a terrorist who crossed the Jordan River this morning. Another soldier was critically wounded, and an additional soldier sustained slight injuries. The terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire. The family of the dead soldier has been notified.

At 0740 this morning, an IDF foot patrol moved north of the Kefar Ruppin kibbutz. A terrorist who had crossed the Jordan River and found a hiding place between the river and the border fence, opened fire at the patrol. Additional troops arrived on the scene within a few minutes, and in the ensuing exchange of fire, the soldier was killed and two others were wounded. The wounded soldiers were evacuated to a hospital.

Our correspondents Hayim Hecht and Karmela Menashe have these details of the incident: The terrorist wore civilian clothes; a handgun and a Kalashnikov were found near his body. He was hit by the first burst of gunfire; he fell on the ground and concealed himself behind a sand hill. He noticed the army reinforcement which arrived on the site, raised himself, fired again at the soldiers, killing one soldier and slightly wounding another.

The chief of staff, who arrived at the site of the incident, said: Jordan must find a way to prevent gunfire and infiltrations from its border, and to guarantee quiet along the border.

Jordan Denies Infiltration

TA0309131589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Jordan has denied reports that an infiltrator entered Israel from its territory and attacked an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol. Nassuh al-Majali, the Jordanian culture and information minister, said that no clues or footprints indicating that an infiltrator penetrated Israel were detected on the Jordanian side of the border. At the same time, Al-Majali abstained from commenting on the statements made by the defense minister and the chief of staff that Jordan must find ways to prevent penetrations from its territory, and must preserve security along its border with Israel.

Results of Debriefing Cited

TA0309161489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Military sources have rejected Jordan's contention that the terrorist who killed an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier yesterday did not infiltrate via Jordanian territory. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a debriefing conducted at the site of the clash showed that the terrorist crossed the Jordan river east of Kefar Ruppin during the night. He crossed the river at a shallow point and hid all morning long approximately 40 meters away from the border fence, but still on Jordanian soil. Only at 0730 did he open fire at an IDF patrol.

Olmert on Jordanian Efforts

TA0409055489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Jordan claimed yesterday that there was no infiltration from the Jordanian side of the border, and that the assailant was a resident of the territories. The Israel army announced that a close examination of the area of the attack left no doubt that the terrorist had crossed over from Jordan.

The issue was not discussed in the cabinet yesterday, but several ministers made it clear that Jordan could not shake off responsibility. Cabinet Minister Ehud Olmert:

[Begin Olmert recording] I hope that they are doing everything possible, but apparently it is not enough, so they have to increase their efforts. It is certainly something that we cannot tolerate. There were too many events lately, and the fact is that you cannot excuse every such attempt by putting the blame only on the individual who does it. There are guards there, there is a certain system, it has to be operated efficiently. We hope that the Jordanian Government will do everything possible to guarantee that there will be no penetration by terrorists of any kind across the border into the Israeli side. [end recording]

Request Sent to Jordan

TA0409131389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Sep 89 p 6

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Yig'al Qotzer, Shmu'el Tal, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] Israel has delivered a message to Jordan through the United States stating that Israel considers Jordan responsible for maintaining security on the eastern bank of the Jordan river. Jordan is therefore considered responsible for the infiltration of the terrorist who killed an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier and mortally wounded another in the vicinity of Kefar Ruppin.

Israel requests that Jordan intensify its security along the common border. In an appeal to the United States, Israel claimed that it is worried by the increase in terrorist infiltrations from Jordanian territory. Last month there was the attack at Nahal Lotan, and last week there was the incident near Kefar Ruppin. [passage omitted]

In the past, Jordan has stepped up its army patrols along the eastern side of the border fence in response to Israeli requests. Israeli opinion believes that the Hashemite monarchy and King Husayn are displeased by these infiltrations and that Jordan is making every effort to maintain a peaceful border between both countries.

business here. The conflict is very profound, very real, and very complex. We cannot expect hocus-pocus solutions.

[Qital] Mr Shamir, are you concerned with the fact that the peace initiative did not get launched?

[Shamir] What do you mean? First of all, it did get launched. I also hope that eventually it will succeed in attaining an understanding from the other side. Were I on the Arab side, mainly on the side of the Arabs in the territories, I would have embraced this initiative with both hands because they can only gain from it. They can certainly lose nothing by accepting it.

However, there is a schism between the Arabs who live here and participate—whether actively or passively—in the confrontation with the security forces, and those Arabs who reside outside Eretz Yisra'el and feel none of the pain and suffering caused by the situation; on the contrary, the Arabs of the diaspora have an easy lot.

[Qital] Should I infer from your remarks that you will continue meeting with Palestinians from the territories?

[Shamir] Certainly, certainly, why not? I only have to see that my action bears some fruit, that I can persuade. What have we done to date? We have merely tried to explain. We have not reached the stage of negotiations yet, we have only tried to explain the initiative.

[Qital] I detect no deep concern about the status quo in your remarks.

[Shamir] It is because you have made up your mind that I wish to perpetuate the status quo, which is entirely untrue. I have said more than once: We can live with the status quo too, because we must live in Eretz Yisra'el and be faithful to our goals. If you ask me, however, whether I see the status quo as the ideal situation, I will tell you: No, because the status quo lacks the element of peace, and we all desire peace.

[Qital] Has Israel advised the United States of its objection to the possibility that 'Arafat may be granted a visa to attend the UN General Assembly?

[Shamir] They have not asked us. We object in general to any activity of 'Arafat, wherever it may take place, in any part of the world.

[Qital] Will we initiate an appeal to the United States to prevent his entry?

[Shamir] No, I do not believe we should do anything of the kind. First of all, 'Arafat himself has to appeal to them for a visa. In any event, our viewpoint is obvious, no one needs to ask us about our stance. Also, we object to the entire relationship between the United States and the PLO. I think the talks the Americans are conducting with the PLO have harmed the peace initiative, and have prevented the peace initiative from acquiring supporters and partners among the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] You are welcome.

Bar-Lev Denies Extradition in Colombia Affair

TA0409183989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said the police will conclude their investigation into Israeli involvement in Colombia within the next few days, even though police in Bogota did not respond to Israel's request for aid in the investigation. Bar-Lev said the investigation has not opened a Pandora's box, as Colonel Ya'ir Klein had prophesied, and he has denied that Israel would extradite the Israelis involved in the Colombian drug affair. Bar-Lev was speaking on a visit to the Ma'ale Yosef Regional Council.

Peru, Bolivia Said Given Arms

TA0309111389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Sep 89 p 3

[Report by Shmu'el Rosenblum]

[Text] In the wake of the Colombian affair, similar Israeli activity has been revealed in neighboring Peru and Bolivia. These two countries are known for their cocaine crops and the drug cartel's organized activities. In addition, extremist right-wing and left-wing organizations there are actively trying to achieve political goals through terrorist activity.

HADASHOT has learned from a source who was in Peru for about 6 months that elements linked to the drug growers spent approximately $9 million on military equipment from Israeli arms dealers in 1987. The equipment included Galil rifles, flak jackets, ammunition belts and ammunition, various types of grenades, and communications and night vision equipment. In 1988 and 1989, in additional deals worth some $6 million, mortars, shells, sniper rifles, and ammunition for light weapons were purchased.

The arms were sent to Peru via Mexico and Guatemala. At least 3 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reserve officers were in Peru for over 2 months in early 1988 to organize fighting units. The Peruvian fighters were presented to the officers as belonging to right-wing political bodies in the country, and the team of instructors included mercenaries from the Netherlands and England.

The team of instructors was made up of some 10 people, some of whom were recruited through an Israeli-Netherlander arms dealer who lives in Amsterdam. The Netherlands media is conducting a wide-ranging investigation into the subject despite the surprising lack of interest by the Netherlands authorities in the affair.

At the same time, Israelis in neighboring Bolivia acted as instructors in a course on safeguarding businessmen, guerrilla warfare, and regional defense. These Israelis

Soldier Dies of Wounds

TA0309211989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Reserve Sergeant Aharon Hanuka from Jerusalem died in Rambam Hospital in Haifa today. He was wounded in yesterday's clash with the terrorist who had infiltrated across the Jordanian border near Kefar Ruppin. In civilian life Sergeant Hanuka served in the detective squad of the Jerusalem police force. The time of the funeral will be announced.

This afternoon Staff Sergeant Daniyel Barzilay was buried on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. He was killed in the clash yesterday.

'Terrorist Command Center' in S. Lebanon Raided

TA0409051889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Israeli planes last night carried out a night strike against terrorist targets in Lebanon. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 4 September reports the raid occurred "just after midnight."] All the planes returned safely. Over to reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

The planes hit the terrorist bases at Majdal Balhis in the central sector of south Lebanon. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman says the building was a command center for various terrorist organizations, but did not specify which groups. All the planes returned safely.

Just over a week ago, the Air Force struck at a Hizballah base in south Lebanon. The raid was carried out during the day. This latest air strike, however, was a nighttime attack, used more rarely by the Air Force in its air strikes on the terrorists in south Lebanon. [passage omitted]

1 'Terrorist' Dead, 2 Escape in Clash With IDF

TA0509080389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] One terrorist was killed and two others escaped in the course of a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops which took place last night in the western sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon. The incident occurred near the village of Ramiyah, and there are no IDF casualties. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports:

The clash took place near the village of Ramiyah, which is north of Moshav Zar'it, in the western sector of the security zone. An IDF unit identified a terrorist squad heading toward Israeli territory. The IDF contingent opened fire at the terrorists. The body of one of the terrorists was discovered this morning during searches in the area. He was apparently a Shiite. Two other terrorists probably managed to flee the security zone.

This was the second confrontation between the IDF and terrorists in this area. The previous squad belonged to the Shiite Amal organization and was on its way to carry out a terror attack inside the security zone. Terrorist elements have managed to infiltrate the areas north of the security zone's western sector over the last few weeks, and they have launched Katyusha rockets at the western Galilee from these locations.

Major General Yosi Peled, the commander of the Northern Command, visited the site of the clash this morning and spoke to soldiers.

'Terrorist' Killed by IDF in Security Zone

TA0109112589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] A terrorist was killed in a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the security zone in southern Lebanon last night. Our forces did not sustain any casualties.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that an IDF patrol identified a terrorist squad in the western sector of the security zone some 2 km northwest of the village of Shhin. The soldiers opened fire at the squad, killing one terrorist while two others escaped. A Kalashnikov assault rifle, cartridges, and a large quantity of explosives were found near the terrorist's body.

Shamir Cited on Colombian Affair, Peace Plan

TA0309095389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on "It's All Talk" by Shalom Qital; on 1 September, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Qital] Will the Israeli Government extend every kind of assistance to the Colombian Administration on the drug issue?

[Shamir] There is no question about that, no doubt at all, none whatsoever. There has always been cooperation between the world's police forces over everything pertaining to the war against crime. There will be no holding back on our part—on the contrary, we are fighting the drug disease inside Israel too, and we are willing to help any element in the world fight this horrible crime that has become a veritable epidemic.

[Qital] As you know, the summer is almost over, but there are some who say that our peace initiative is still hibernating. The defense minister used the expression: A dead end.

[Shamir] He did not say a dead end, and I do not remember precisely what he did say. We should not harbor the expectation that the other side will immediately accept and swallow anything we propose that we believe is wise and good. It is not as simple as all that. There is opposition to our approach, and contrasting interests and goals. It has been just over 3 months since the initiative. We know with whom we have to do

[Tzur] Nevertheless, I decided to make the appeal, after I had made it clear to myself that I would not adversely affect various contacts and measures that were taken. We notified everyone over the telephone, including the ambassador in Israel, and he promised to transfer the message.

[Dan] So what are all these reports of embarrassment in Jerusalem as a result of your action?

[Tzur] I have no idea. I, for instance, have heard nothing.

[Dan] There is no embarrassment? No displeasure was expressed in governmental circles at your step?

[Tzur] Nobody mentioned embarrassment to me, and nobody brought the matter to my attention.

[Dan] In other words, the whole matter passed quietly.

[Tzur] The matter will end quietly when she is released from jail.

[Dan] Thank you Minister Tzur.

Netanyahu to U.S. for Talks, 'Arafat Visa Issue

TA0409194489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Senior political sources in Jerusalem believe that the United States is negotiating with 'Arafat on the conditions under which he would receive a visa to the United States to participate in the UN General Assembly session, our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports.

According to the supposition prevalent in Jerusalem, if 'Arafat agrees to negotiations between Israel and Palestinians from the territories, he will receive a visa to the United States.

Our correspondent points out that Jewish organizations in the United States are continuing their efforts to prevent a visa being granted to Yasir 'Arafat.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu leaves tonight for political meetings in the United States, where he, too, will deal with this issue.

Comments on 'Arafat Visa Request

TA0509055089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu leaves today for Washington to meet with senior members of the Bush administration and Congress and is expected to raise Israeli concern over the possibility of the U.S. granting PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa. Yesterday the Egyptian newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reported that the administration will issue such a visit if 'Arafat applies to enter the United States to address the UN General Assembly.

Israeli sources say Netanyahu's visit will be part of the government's information campaign in the West. He is also expected to discuss proposals to advance the Israeli peace plan and opposition to the PLO.

Netanyahu will stress that Arab terror against the residents of the territories is the chief obstacle to the peace process. Reporter David Essing has been talking to the deputy foreign minister about his upcoming visit:

[Begin recording] [Essing] Mr Netanyahu, you're headed for the United States today at a time that there might be some clouds—storm clouds—on the horizon of Israeli-U.S. relations. We've heard reports that the United States is disappointed with the progress that's being made in the peace process and so forth. Is this indeed the case, sir?

[Netanyahu] Well, it's true that I'm headed for the United States, but as far as U.S. disappointment, you'd have to ask the United States. I know that there is widespread disappointment in the U.S. Congress, public opinion, and presumably also in the U.S. Administration over the rejectionism still displayed by the PLO, but I've not seen that it is directed against Israel.

[Essing] At the same time, there are reports that perhaps the United States is dealing with 'Arafat on allowing him to attend the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly, if the PLO gives the green light to the Palestinians participating in the elections. Do you think there is any possibility of this happening?

[Netanyahu] Well, nothing can be ruled out, but I can say that we have no concrete information on that. This is not, by the way, the purpose of my visit. I am not going there to make our position known on the 'Arafat meeting, because it is already known. We're against it, and that would not be something that I'd be saying anew in the United States. That's nothing to add.

[Essing] How serious a development would you think this would be, sir, if the United States does allow 'Arafat to participate at the United Nations?

[Netanyahu] Well, we hope it wouldn't happen. The PLO has recently manifested, especially through the Fatah meeting—and the Fatah is the mainstream group of the PLO—that it remains opposed to Israel's very existence. So there's no point in rewarding such an organization, which has shown its recalcitrance over and over, by a visit of 'Arafat in the United States.

[Essing] And at the nonaligned conference, 'Arafat has come out in favor of increasing, escalating the intifadah [uprising]. What effect do you think this is going to have now?

[Netanyahu] Well, that reinforces the point that I just said. At a time when the PLO shows every sign of sticking to its continued opposition to Israel and escalating violence, it wouldn't make any sense for anyone to encourage it in this path. Certainly a visit to the United States would be such an encouragement.

reached Bolivia in the wake of an arms consignment worth some $12 million, which arrived in Peru [country as published] via a third party, which purchased it in an African country, which in turn had received it from Israel.

Following the reports on deals by Israelis abroad, the Income Tax Investigations Division has begun an inquiry into tax payments on Israeli arms deals and training abroad.

In the past 5 years, the scope of commissions paid to arms dealers is estimated at $1 billion. At least half of it went to big dealers, such as Sha'ul Eisenberg, Marcus Katz, Pesah Ben-Or, Israces, and others. They are not under suspicion of trying to cheat or hide information from the tax authorities.

Ya'aqov Tzur Appeals for Anne Pollard's Release

TA0109113189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] Health Minister Ya'aqov Tzur has asked the U.S. ambassador to Israel to work for the release of Anne Pollard from prison. A Voice of Israel reporter says that the request by Tzur to Ambassador Brown has the backing of the cabinet.

The health minister said that he decided to make the request after he received information concerning her health, and asked that the release be granted on humanitarian grounds due to Anne Pollard's poor health.

Appeal Causes 'Embarrassment'

TA0309122289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Health Minister Ya'aqov Tzur's appeal to the U.S. Administration to release Anne Pollard has aroused embarrassment in Jerusalem political circles. A senior source said Israel has been conducting quiet contacts with the United States over the Pollards, in particular Anne Pollard, for some time. However, there was no decision at the political level to make an official appeal in the name of the Israeli Government over the matter.

Minister Tzur appealed to U.S. Ambassador William Brown to transmit to the U.S. authorities "the request to reconsider in a positive vein, and with compassion, the decision on Anne Pollard's release."

Political sources told the HA'ARETZ correspondent that Tzur's appeal aroused embarrassment because it was viewed as an official Israeli initiative, even though the government has so far avoided taking any step which might be construed as support for the Pollards.

Tzur: No 'Embarrassment'

TA0309170989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Ya'aqov Tzur by 'Amiqam Rotman and Ya'el Dan on 3 September—live]

[Text] [Dan] We hear today that Health Minister Ya'aqov Tzur has appealed to the U.S. Administration with a request to release Anne Pollard from prison. Good afternoon Health Minister Tzur.

[Tzur] Good afternoon.

[Dan] Why? Why did you decide to turn to the U.S. Administration?

[Tzur] Over the last several days I was approached by various institutions and by many Israeli citizens regarding Anne Pollard's condition. They asked me to pass on their appeal, together with my own request, to the proper authorities. After holding consultations to ascertain that my action would not cause any harm I contacted the U.S. ambassador and submitted the requests to him. I appealed to him on humanitarian grounds, called for a show of mercy, and asked that Pollard's fate be reconsidered.

[Rotman] But appeals by private or public bodies or individuals are not the same as an appeal by a minister in the Israeli Government.

[Tzur] That is most true, and that is the reason I did it. I counted on the slight hope, of course out of no political considerations, that an appeal by the health minister in light of her medical condition may carry some weight and possibly bring about a positive response. We must remember that due to her condition no decision to reject her appeal has been made, and it is being reconsidered right now. I think that on humanitarian grounds, and I cannot deny that also due to Israeli sentiment, I thought it appropriate to add my voice if it can have any effect.

[Dan] Humanitarian and Israeli reasons that you know can be interpreted as an official Israeli position; this comes at a time when the Israeli Government, at least according to HA'ARETZ, has taken great pains to conduct quiet discussions on this matter.

[Tzur] I can only state and assure you that I consulted all relevant parties so that no damage, God forbid, would be caused, and so I would not step beyond the bounds of acceptable diplomatic behavior.

[Dan] With the foreign minister, for example?

[Tzur] With all the elements dealing with this affair.

[Rotman] But when a government minister appeals to another government he acts in the name of his government, not just on his own behalf. Is that not correct?

[Essing] Mr Netanyahu, thank you very much indeed. [end recording]

Sources Refuse Comment on U.S. Detainee

TA0309124989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Sep 89 p 2

[Report by AFP and Ori Nir]

[Excerpts] The Israeli authorities are not permitting U.S. diplomats to meet with Hatim Sharif, a U.S. citizen of Palestinian descent detained in the West Bank 2 weeks ago, the U.S. State Department confirmed on Thursday. [passage omitted]

Official military sources last night refused to comment on the report that the West Bank authorities are not permitting U.S. diplomats to visit a detained youth who holds U.S. citizenship. The sources said there is no way to check the claim without receiving all the information on his identity, including his ID number.

It should be pointed out that according to military regulations in the territories, the authorities are permitted to hold detainees for a period of up to 18 days and even beyond that without permitting the person to meet with his attorney or a representative on his behalf.

Rabin Interviewed on Uprising, Border Incident

TA0309065789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Minister Rabin. Before I ask you about yesterday's incident near the Jordanian border, I would like to ask this: Do you perceive the intifadah [uprising] dying out? Do you have another definition to describe the intifadah as it is now?

[Rabin] First of all, the intifadah, or as I call it, the popular uprising in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, is not being eliminated. The achievement of calm is a protracted process, for which the Israeli Government has a comprehensive policy based on two principal directions: the sphere of politics and defense. You must refer to the latter aspect.

In the sphere of defense, there was certainly a period when violence had abated. It was not that the intifadah died out; there was merely a decrease in violence that was connected to two developments: the military and defense activity of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security organs; and the expectations of the Palestinian residents of the territories, who believed that after the government's peace initiative was raised they were coming close to the resolution of their problem. Our initiative caused them to hope that a political process was at hand.

Nowadays, in the wake of the Fatah congress in Tunis, we are witnessing attempts by Palestinian elements to escalate the violence in the territories, as well as a process of a growing lack of political flexibility on their part. As a result, there is a process of internal division in the Palestinian population. We no longer see any enthusiasm among the great bulk [last word in English] of residents to resort to violent actions. Conversely, a hard-core terrorist nucleus has been formed. It is comprised of thousands of activists who have taken it upon themselves to incite the Arab public. We have seen them resort to murdering fellow Palestinians in order to terrorize the population. Despite all this, we must adhere to our policy that allows the extended Palestinian public, that which does not participate in violence despite feelings of solidarity with the hard-core nucleus, to live its life. We must take action against the hard-core nucleus.

Even if yesterday's operation in Nabulus causes a temporary escalation, our objective is the elimination and arrest of those hard-core squads. In the upcoming days, the IDF troops will receive authorization to employ the regulation pertaining to the use of live ammunition in arresting suspects. This will be valid with regard to all suspicious masked individuals, day and night. I believe we will be able to deal with them. When we succeed in decreasing the level of terror which they have cast on the public, we will move ahead in other directions.

[Einstein] Mr Rabin, yesterday's incident was the fifth on the Jordanian border since May 1988. Do you believe the Jordanians are doing enough to prevent terrorist activity against us?

[Rabin] The very fact that there was a clash yesterday resulting in the death of one IDF soldier and the critically wounding of another indicates a need—on our part, first and foremost—to take action to enable the IDF to carry out its task of safeguarding that border, as well as other borders. Our main goal is to prevent the infiltration of squads coming here to carry out attacks inside the territory of the State of Israel—inside towns and along roads. We must do this at the least cost possible, in human terms. This is the task of the IDF. The army has been successful in preventing infiltrations, even though occasionally it has had to engage in battles. We have been doing this on the Lebanese border for the last 7 years—ever since the Lebanon War.

The IDF unit acted properly. The fact that the killed soldier did not belong to the antiterrorist squad that usually patrols the area, but was one of the reinforcements, testifies to the alertness and speed with which the IDF troops arrived at the site of the incident.

The other side of the problem is, of course, Jordan. I believe Jordan is taking preventive action, but I have no doubt that the opening of Jordan to various PLO elements has enabled the PLO leaders and the organization's funds to reach Jordan. This has increased the peril of terrorist infiltration from Jordan. Jordan cannot act,

or pretend to act against terror, and at the same time open its territory to the activities of PLO organizations. Jordan will have to reconsider the events of the recent months, even the past year, in this sphere.

[Einstein] Mr Rabin, is there any intention to relay this message to the Jordanians?

[Rabin] I believe that public statements as well as other methods are important in that they will make it clear to Jordan that Israel will not accept a situation in which Jordan is open to terrorists who are free to carry out attacks against Israel, and to organize their systems for that purpose.

[Einstein] Today, Mr Rabin, you together with IDF generals will present the IDF's multiyear work plan to the cabinet. We have already heard treasury officials saying that the financing for that plan is not to be found.

[Rabin] First of all, I would like to explain what the plan involves. After a period of several years during which the framework of resources at the IDF's disposal was vague, and after about 5 years in which I have been the defense minister when attempts were made to formulate multi-annual plans, a plan was finalized about 1 year ago. The basis of that 5-year plan is the present budget framework—i.e., the present defense budget deriving from the state's resources and from U.S. aid. We will not raise any demands for additional budgets at today's cabinet meeting.

At the same time, we will point out the importance of adhering to the present budget framework, of which the Cabinet should be aware. This is the plan we will present today.

[Einstein] Thank you very much, Mr Defense Minister.

Examines Increase in Violence

TA0309083489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is our main guest today. Good morning sir.

[Rabin] Good morning to you and the listeners.

[Friedman] In recent weeks we have heard a lot about the intifadah [uprising], but almost nothing about the government's peace initiative. Does this mean that the intifadah is growing stronger, while the political initiative is waning, perhaps dying?

[Rabin] You must remember that these two elements are intertwined. To a certain extent there is a connection between the political initiative and the violent activities of the uprising, or the so-called intifadah. When the Palestinian population of the territories feels that the political initiative is in the limelight—that the air is full of it; that there is activity related to it—its inclination to resort to violent activities in the framework of the uprising, such as stone throwing and demonstrations, is reduced. Naturally, this does not include the hard-core nucleus which carries out the attacks and incites the population on behalf of the intifadah.

I have no doubt that following a period of about 4 months—from March until July or August—in which the Arab population had certain expectations, we witnessed a rise in their motivation for violence. The security forces' activities reduced that, of course. The turning point was the Fatah congress, which sent out signals to render the political positions even more inflexible, and to escalate violent activities.

Therefore, we find ourselves in a situation in which we are obliged to make it plain to the local population, to the Arab world, and to the international community that even if attempts are made to exacerbate the violence, they will have no impact on us. We will act against this violence, as can already be seen in the field, mainly against the hard-core nucleus that is the key to the population's conduct with respect to violence.

[Mardor] What about the political activity?

[Rabin] It should be remembered that even after the initiative waned, there was political activity in the shape of contacts with the population in the territories, and attempts to persuade other countries to see the Israeli Government's initiative as action in the right direction. In the latter field, we had success with one government only—with the U.S. Government.

[Friedman] It, however, is not our partner.

[Rabin] We wished to reach a situation in which at least one superpower—the United States, which is the most important as far as we are concerned—would view our initiative as a step in the right direction, would support it, and be willing to help. Naturally, solutions cannot be forced on anyone. What we need is perseverance, patience, and of course an abstention from adding the occasional braces to the peace initiative. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] With your permission, I would like to address the issue of the apparently rising violence on our northern border. It would seem that the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd has not changed the approach of the Hizballah. The opposite may be true: On the one hand it refuses to enter negotiations for the exchange of hostages, and on the other it continues carrying out terrorist attacks, and has perhaps exacerbated them. Since the abduction on 28 July, we have witnessed a bomb car, several road-side charges, and katyushas fired at the Galilee panhandle. Do you believe this reality sabotages the chances to secure the prompt release of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] POW's held in Lebanon?

[Rabin] I have never been one to think that there can be one war to end all wars, or one operation to put an end to terror. The proof is that more than 7 years after the

Lebanon War, the terror from Lebanon has not been eradicated. Moreover, it has intensified and grown. Therefore, we adopted a different policy in 1985. This policy has no pretensions of offering miraculous solutions, nor is it based on daydreaming. It presents the IDF and the Israeli people with a line of action based on a realistic view of the situation: a constant war against terror. The operation against Shaykh 'Ubayd should be seen in a similar light. We did not think that by the elimination or kidnapping of one leader we would solve the entire problem. We thought it was our moral and practical duty to see to the well-being of our POW's and MIA's, and that is what we did. We brought the issue to the world's attention. I am convinced that as a result of this operation, there is a better chance that our sons will return home in the course of the next year or 2. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Hizballah Active in Territories

LD0109205489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] The Palestinian Hizballah in its first revolutionary action has distributed about 10,000 color portraits of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, in Jerusalem, Hebron, and Galilee in the occupied territories.

According to a Central News Unit report, these posters in addition to the portrait of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, sanctified by his noble soul, also carry a sentence of His Eminence's remarks and a poem by Yusef 'Azim, a Palestinian poet. That poem, taking an oath on the blood of martyrs, says: Our path is God's path and our leader is the Spirit of God [Ruhollah].

The Palestinian Hizballah declared its presence in the occupied territories a short while ago.

8 Schools Closed in West Bank 5 Sep

TA0509094989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] The Civil Administration this morning closed eight schools in Judaea and Samaria. This followed numerous disturbances that occurred in these schools. Five schools had so far been closed in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent in the territories 'Ido Shargil reports that this is the first time such a large number of schools have been closed simultaneously.

2 Killed, 3 Wounded in Clash in Nabulus 2 Sep

TA0209051089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Two terrorists were shot and killed by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit in a clash in Nabulus early this morning. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. Three other terrorists were captured wounded. Our forces sustained no casualties.

Girl Killed; Curfew Imposed

TA0209141489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] A curfew has been imposed on Nabulus after a local Arab girl was killed in the course of riots. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the riots erupted in the wake of an incident in which two terrorists were killed and three were wounded this morning. It has been learned from the Nabulus hospital that a young Arab girl was wounded and later died, and that eight others were wounded. The Army is looking into these reports.

'Terrorists' Killed; Schools Reopen

TA0209172289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] The terrorist squad, whose two members were killed and three were wounded this morning in Nabulus, had been wanted by the security forces in connection with several murders. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that squad members were on the list of men wanted for terrorizing Nabulus. They had harmed residents whom they suspected of assisting the authorities. One of the terrorists who was killed today belonged to the squad which killed reservist Beni Meisner in Nabulus casbah.

The academic year began today without a snag in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that Mayor Teddy Kollek promised to continue providing administrative and education services to all Old City institutions which ensure uninterrupted studies. The number of requests from Judaea and Samaria students to register at East Jerusalem schools has risen this year, and our correspondent notes that the municipal education system in East Jerusalem is more stable than in Judaea and Samaria.

King Husayn Leaves for Nonaligned Conference

JN0309103689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn left Amman at noon today for Belgrade heading the Jordanian delegation to the Ninth Conference of the Heads of State or Government of the Nonaligned Movement. The summit will discuss a number of international political and economic issues and regional conflicts, in addition to the Nonaligned Movement agenda.

His majesty was seen off at the airport by His Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty's personal representative; Crown Prince Hasan, the regent; His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Ibn-Husayn; His Highness Prince Faysal Ibn-Husayn, his majesty's adviser; his majesty's special adviser; his highness the chief chamberlain; his highness the secretary of households; ministers; the chief of the General Staff, ranking civil and military officials; and the Yugoslav ambassador in Amman.

His majesty is accompanied by His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court Mudar Badran; and His Majesty's political adviser 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah.

Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, took the constitutional oath before His Majesty King Husayn, in the presence of the cabinet, to deputize for his majesty during his absence from the homeland.

Infiltration Into Israel 'Categorically Denied'

JN0309130889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Randah Habib report from Amman]

[Excerpt] Jordan has categorically denied any act of infiltration into Israel from its territory yesterday, Saturday. That infiltration resulted in the killing of an Israeli soldier and the injury of another two.

In a statement to our radio, Jordanian Information Minister Nasuh al-Majali said no evidence was found of an infiltration, stressing that if such an operation had really occurred it would have been part of the resistance acts within the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Majali described the Israeli media clamor over the operation as an attempt to put blame on Jordan in order to escape from what is actually taking place in the occupied territories. Al-Majali recalled that the stand of the inhabitants of the occupied territory toward the Israeli occupation is clear and well-known, and he considered the Israeli statements only an attempt to cover up this reality.

This is the fourth operation since the beginning of this year. It was preceded by three other operations, one on 17 March in which an Israeli soldier was killed, the second on 27 May, and the third on 8 August. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Denies 'Infiltration' Claim

JN0409074898 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan Sunday rejected an Israeli claim that an "infiltration" had crossed Jordanian territory over the demarcation line and killed an Israeli reservist.

"No infiltration has taken place from Jordan," Information Minister Nasuh al-Majali was quoted as saying by international news agencies. "We have no proof that a civilian crossed the ceasefire line," he said.

"There are no trace on the Jordanian side of the line," he said. "Usually when someone crosses, we could figure it out. Either he crosses a certain fence or sometimes (leaves) a footprint... There's nothing."

According to the Israeli claim, a man in civilian clothes crossed the Jordanian River from the north-east but south of the Sea of Galilee and attacked an Israeli patrol early Saturday, killing one soldier and wounding two others before he was shot dead. The man was not identified by the Israeli army. Though the alleged incident occurred early Saturday, [2 September] the Israeli army did not announce it until late at night. It said the man was armed with Kalashnikov rifle and a revolver.

In comments carried by the ASSOCIATED PRESS Sunday, Majali said that the incident might be "part of the struggle" that the Israelis are facing—the 21-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The incident occurred early Saturday morning as a foot patrol passed near a communal farm on the demarcation line, 80 kilometres northeast of Jerusalem, the Israeli army said.

The man waited in ambush between the Jordan River Bank and a fence, opening fire on the passing patrol, the army said.

Backup forces reached the area and during the exchange of fire, a soldier was killed and two others were injured. The soldier was evacuated to hospital immediately, the statement said.

"It was not a Jordanian soldier. It was a Palestinian..." an Israeli official told reporters.

Writer Praises Response to Israel 'Allegations'

JN0409090089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Sep 89 p 20

["An Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "Throwing the Ball Into the Israeli Court"]

[Text] The Israeli spokesman has claimed that shooting has taken place from across the Jordanian border and that Jordan is responsible for what has happened. The spokesman went further when he claimed that Jordan gives facilities to the fedayeen organizations. In response to these allegations, the [Jordanian] information minister said that this incident cannot be separated from what is happening in the occupied territory and that the operation was carried out from inside the occupied territory.

The incident comes amid the recent escalation of Israeli repression and the increase in the premeditated killings carried out by the occupation forces after the failure of every method to quell the legitimate intifadah [uprising]. Consequently, this incident is part of the prevailing violence whose daily victims are Palestinian youths whose only fault is that they refuse to submit to the occupation and reject its presence.

In this atmosphere, one party cannot pay the price alone while the other party enjoys tranquillity and calm. Instead of magnifying a separate incident and giving it more than its real significance, the Tel Aviv rulers should review their stands and prepare their forces for withdrawal from the occupied territory since they do not like to see the blood of their soldiers shed in confrontations. They should do that instead of continuing to use criminal force or boasting about new occupation schemes until the year 2000 that provide for "occupation service" conscripts to serve inside the occupied territory.

The information minister's sound statement has dotted the i's and crossed the t's and gone to the heart of the matter in responding to the Israeli allegations. Tel Aviv is trying to export its crisis and to find external reasons for its internal crisis—the crisis of the continuation of the occupation and the escalation of national popular pressure against the occupation forces to force them to depart.

His statement is evidence of a sound information policy whose main objective is to confront the enemy, reinforce fraternal pan-Arab solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people, and to underline the essence of the problem of the continued occupation.

There is no doubt that this information policy very accurately expresses Jordan's position and its firm pan-Arab course. This information policy is better than the strange media accounts that have described those who engaged the enemy and fell as martyrs as insane. The ones who are really insane are the occupation leaders who have been blinded by their thoughtless criminal force and who cannot comprehend the simple fact that the occupation constitutes a source of blatant provocation to the people who are exposed to its injustice—injustice which is also directed against their brothers, the sons of the Arab nation. This provocation will arouse feelings and counterreactions.

Columnist Rejects Israeli Threats to Jordan

JN0509084489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Sep 89 p 20

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Threat, Hegemony, and Limited Sovereignty"]

[Text] This Israeli threat is rejected because we reject Israel's hegemony over Jordan, the Arab nation, and our pan-Arab commitment. Israel uses its security as a pretext to kill the Palestinian people and choke their will to live. Israel wants us to help it kill this people in silence, to give it a knife, and to prepare the dead for the grave.

This Israeli threat is rejected because we reject "limited sovereignty" over our homeland and one people. Old colonialism established the Zionist entity on our soil and the new colonialism has employed this entity and provided it with a war machine.

We, in the first place, do not believe in the viability of a superficial Palestinian struggle. Also, the PLO reached this conviction after the departure from Lebanon. Therefore, the blessed intifadah [uprising] erupted from inside the occupied territory and throughout the last 2 years it was able to break and curb the Israeli military force and expose Zionist racism before the entire world as an expansionist aggressive force that is hostile to peace.

The individual incidents which took place near the cease-fire lines and which were not planned by the leadership of the Palestinian struggle do not give the Israelis an excuse to threaten us.

First, we are not a security force to safeguard the occupation. Second, we are not witnesses to the massacre perpetrated by Israel in the occupied territory.

We, together with the entire world, are aware that the Palestinian feelings are charged with rancor and hatred and that any Palestinian and Arab—close to or far away from the cease-fire line—in Janin, Ramallah, or Galilee will fire at the occupation forces sooner or later. Do the Israelis expect the people to throw flowers at their executioners?

The Israelis have achieved a state of "limited sovereignty" over two Arab fronts. However, they delude themselves because this situation will not last long.

The Israelis are now trying to impose hegemony over the Arab region under the pretext of Israeli security needs. In this, they delude themselves also because there is no superpower or satellite that is capable of imposing hegemony over a nation the size of the Arab nation.

The Israeli chief of staff's threat to Jordan cannot stop our solidarity with the Palestinian people in their intifadah or our commitment to its leadership. And this threat is rejected.

60 Detained During April Riots Released 2 Sep

JN0209192089 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Under directives from his majesty the king, 60 people detained during last April's riots in the Kingdom were released this evening. The release of the detainees was announced by an Interior Ministry source.

Al-Lawzi Receives Memo on Bulgaria's Turks

JN1708123489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Amman—Ahmad al-Lawzi, Senate speaker and head of Jordan's parliamentary branch of the International Parliamentary Union [IPU], has received a report from Turkey's parliamentary branch of the IPU about the problem of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria, the harsh conditions it has been subjected to, including expulsions and having to leave their lands and property.

The memorandum also touched on the intention of the Turkish branch to raise this humanitarian issue at the 82d International Parliamentary Congress set for London early next month.

Al-Lawzi underscored Jordan's stand calling for the issue to be approached as required by international law and human rights considerations. Jordan's parliamentary branch, added the senate speaker, will coordinate with Arab and Islamic branches to promote a fair, radical solution to this humanitarian problem.

International Telephone Charges To Increase

JN2708110489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Aug 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman (PETRA)—Charges for international telephone calls will go up by nearly 40 per cent as of Sept. 1 as a result of the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar against the U.S. dollar, an official statement issued by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) said Saturday.

The statement said the current rates were set in 1986 when the U.S. dollar was sold at the rate of 346 fils and the increase was warranted by the rise in the rate of exchange of the dollar, which rose to 579.4 fils in August 1989. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Makes Foreign Currency Available

JN2508155189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Amman—The Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] is still closely watching the effect of the measures it has adopted to stabilize the exhange rate of the dinar. In this context, the CBJ has issued a new memorandum to the commercial banks and financial institutions informing them that, effective tomorrow, Saturday, 26 August 1989, it will meet their hard currency needs at 700 fils to the dollar. They should agree to a selling price ceiling of 705 fils to meet the various requirements of their clients that did not figure in the CBJ's Memo No 194/89 of 23 August 1989. The banks and institutions will not charge exchange rate commissions. [passage omitted]

More Hard Currency Available

JN0409205989 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] The Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has issued a new memorandum in which it informs the commercial banks and licensed finance companies of its readiness to meet their foreign currency needs at 690 fils per dollar on condition that they abide by a maximum selling price of 695 fils without charging any commission in order to meet the various needs of their clients which have not been stated in its memorandum pertaining to the list of subsidized basic commodities and the needs of students and agricultural workers.

At the same time, the CBJ will sell the commercial banks and licensed finance companies what they need in foreign currency at the official rate in order to pay off bills of lading of subsidized basic commodities and to meet the needs of students and agricultural workers at the official rate of the dollar.

The CBJ's decisions come within a series of measures to meet the need of various sectors for foreign currency in order to continue stability in the foreign currency market at the oficial price of the dinar.

CBJ Raises Interest Rates to Exporters

JN0109160489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] The Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has issued a memorandum to banks and financial companies raising interest rates on loans granted to Jordanians to 8 percent per annum for exports to countries with which Jordan has bilateral trade pacts and to 6.6 percent per annum for exports to other nations. The measure allows for reasonable margins between these rates and the prices of interests and currencies charged by the banks and commercial companies for credit facilities.

At the same time, and in keeping with the government's general economic policies and to make subsidies available for the export sector in the Kingdom as well as to help its competitiveness in the external markets and open up new ones, the CBJ decided to buy the export foreign exchange revenues—be it those coming via the banking system or those regulated by payment agreements run by the system or by the banks and financial companies at the free price prevalent in the market.

Lebanon

'Peaceful Siege' Imposed on U.S. Embassy

NC0509103489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] A demonstration was staged before the U.S. Embassy in 'Awkar this morning. The demonstrators announced that they are imposing a seige on the embassy headquarters. Michel al-Kik has a full report:

[Al-Kik] At 1130 today, a huge demonstration organized by the Proliberation Movement [Harakat Da'm al-Tahrir] arrived at the headquarters of the U.S. Embassy in 'Awkar. The demonstration included delegations from the various Lebanese areas, who were protesting over the policy of the U.S Administration and its weak stands on the war launched by Syria against the Lebanese.

Throughout the day, embassy guards erected metal barriers and barbed wire around the embassy to prevent demonstrators from approaching.

The demonstrators shouted patriotic anthems, denounced the policy of the U.S. Government, and carried signs which read: "The Statue of Liberty is for sale," "The gun is Syrian and the decision is American," and "the American failure slaughters Lebanon's children." Other signs depicted the Statue of Liberty as raising a Syrian flag instead of the torch or showed the Statue of Liberty to be saying "I am ashamed to be in America".

It is worth noting that the demonstrators emphasized that their demonstration is a peaceful and civilized one.

At 1220, the demonstrators issued communique No 1, which announced the beginning of the operation of the two children, Maya and Ruba, who drowned in Juniyah due to the Syrian naval blockade. According to the communique, the goal of this operation is to impose a peaceful seige on the U.S. Embassy. The communique adds that the seige will be escalated day by day if the U.S Administration does not respond to the demonstrators' demands. They demand that: Ambassador McCarthy present his credentials to the legitimate Lebanese authority; the United States send an official envoy to learn about the real situation in Lebanon, and the blockade imposed by the Syrians on the eastern areas be lifted.

According to the communique, the seige of the U.S. Embassy begins today. The demonstrators will issue a communique on the developments of the seige at 1220 every day.

Blockade To Begin 6 Sep

NC0509164589 Paris AFP in English 1626 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, Sep 5 (AFP)—Nearly 1,000 anti-Syrian demonstrators, enraged at what they say is tacit U.S. support for Syria in Lebanon, began a "blockade" Tuesday of the U.S. Embassy in a Christian suburb just north of here.

The crowd, defying blistering heat, carried banners denouncing the United States and its ambassador to Lebanon, who the demonstrators said had "sold his soul to Syrian terrorism." [passage omitted]

Gen 'Awn, speaking from his bunker on Saturday, blasted the United States for failing to condemn Syrian shelling of residential areas in and around Beirut.

He charged that Washington had "sold" Lebanon in favor of an overall Middle East settlement under which he said the Lebanese would be forced to submit to the Syrian government. The general also called for protests at the U.S. embassy, located in the northern Beirut suburb of 'Awkar.

Organizers of the blockade said the action will begin in earnest on Wednesday, when demonstrators will prevent all but embassy employees from entering the complex. Already supplies of water and food have been stored in a building near the compound and organizers said hundreds of people have volunteered to maintain the blockade, which will be progressively applied until the embassy is totally sealed off.

An employee at the embassy, which is protected by three rows of anti-tank barriers and barbed wire fences, said the facility was closed Tuesday and that Ambassador John McCarthy was not present. [passage omitted]

The operation has been codenamed "Maya and Ruba," the names of two little girls who drowned last month during Syrian shelling of the Christian port of Juniyah.

"We are trying to alert American public opinion so that it will force (the U.S.) government to shoulder its responsibilities concerning Lebanon," explained Jubran Tuwayni, an organizer.

"Our action is meant to support Gen 'Awn but it has not been coordinated with him," he added.

Demonstrators are specifically demanding that Ambassador McCarthy present his credentials to Gen 'Awn, who heads an all-Christian military government vying for authority with a rival Moslem-dominated administration. In addition, they want the United States to send a special envoy to Lebanon, as have France and the Soviet Union.

'Awn News Conference on U.S. Policy

NC0209164989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] At a news conference at B'abda Palace before noon today, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn affirmed that the international position on the political

dossier of the Lebanese issue is unanimous and the Arabs have issued their verdict, holding Syria responsible for events in Lebanon and hindering all Arab and international efforts. What remains is for this verdict to be implemented. Gen 'Awn emphasized his determination to continue the resistance until all non-Lebanese forces, led by the Syrian forces, are evacuated. Gen 'Awn said:

"Politically, the issue is over. There is international consensus, except for Syria, that Lebanon has a right to be an independent, free, and sovereign country. The problem is with Syria which does not recognize this sovereignty and independence, and wants to get its hand on Lebanon. We can say that the political dossier has been completed and the verdict has been issued. Now we have to see how this can be implemented."

Regarding the role of the U.S. Administration in Lebanon, Gen 'Awn said:

"U.S. policy is not vague at all. It is very, very, very clear. There are people in Lebanon who engage in but do not understand politics. They think there is a U.S. policy in Lebanon. They would like to stay busy with something in the country, like merchandise. They say this is the United States, and whatever it says we must listen to it, because it is the boss. No one should oppose the United States, because we are small, few, and incapable. In other words, they preach a policy of submission, subserviency, and weakness. Actually, the United States is not interested in Lebanon. It has given Lebanon up. The declared U.S. policy for the past 15 years has been to advocate Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. This is the declared policy, but the actual policy supports Syria's presence in Lebanon, and Syria does not recognize Lebanon's sovereignty.

"Therefore, the United States contradicts itself. When U.S. officials talk about their policy in Lebanon and support Syria, which does not recognize our sovereignty, this is the plot. When a U.S. official says we are unable to do anything for Lebanon, he is insulting mankind and human intelligence. This is because no one can believe that the United States can do nothing. The United States is the biggest world power. It militarily dominates the Mediterranean. It has not accepted Soviet intervention on any issue in the Middle East. Now this official says the United States can do nothing. Who does he think we are? Does he think that we lack any intelligence or understanding or that we are slaves to him, and we must believe what he says? No. This is the U.S. plot—when the United States gives Syria one chance after another to deal a military blow to Lebanon.

"They do not denounce any crime committed against Lebanon. If they do, it is just to soften the resentment of the public opinion here and in the United States. It is crocodile tears. It is not true that the United States does not approve of what the Syrians are doing here. We have been under maritime blockade for 6 months. No fuel is allowed to reach us. The United States knows more than anyone else the meaning of the cessation of fuel supply to Lebanon. Why is it allowing it? Since when were Syrian vessels able to venture south of Nahr al-Kabir? This is the plot, and this is U.S. policy."

Gen 'Awn explained that current U.S. policy is to frighten the Lebanese people in order to make them submit to Syria and allow a solution to the Middle East problem at Lebanon's expense. He accused the United States and Syria of contributing to the internal divisions in the political authority and the army in Lebanon. He said that the Soviet Union is working sincerely for peace in the Middle East and Lebanon. Soviet Envoy Tarasov, he said, is convinced that the Lebanese issue can be solved only by peaceful means. But he left and we have not yet been informed of the Syrian position. Gen 'Awn maintained that the problem lies in Syria's failure to recognize Lebanon's independence.

"Had Syria failed to recognize Lebanon because of me, I would have considered myself the problem. But if we look back, we will find historic reasons why Syria has not formally recognized Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. We will also find that all Lebanon's problems for the past 15 years were the result of raising the issue of the Syrian forces' withdrawal from Lebanon. Hafiz al-Asad could not reply when he was asked about the issue of Lebanese sovereignty. When we see all this, I no longer can imagine that Gen 'Awn is the problem. The problem is Syria's attitude toward Lebanon. Lebanon is a founding and full member of the United Nations and the Arab League. Syria is the only country in the world that does not recognize Lebanon. Hence, I say that the problem is Syria. However, throughout the stages of the crisis, Syria has deliberately sought to pin the responsibility for the crisis on the Lebanese officials in order to divide the Lebanese and then enter through this gap to create doubts about the officials in order to remove them and bring in perhaps softer and more flexible ones who can maintain the crisis or give Syria more time to occupy and annex more Lebanese territory."

Gen 'Awn affirmed that the mission of the envoys was not a fact- finding one. They came to Lebanon and Syria and conveyed decisive positions.

"The envoys did not come on a fact-finding mission. They are aware of the facts, particularly following the Arab Committee's report. They conveyed stands, and I think the stands were final."

Regarding the proposals brought by the envoys, Gen 'Awn said:

"Their proposals are almost the same as the proposals of the Tripartite Committee—that is, cease-fire and lifting the blockades. Peace moves began like this in all wars in the world, including the Gulf war. There should be a cease-fire and then talks. This is true except in Syria's case. It wants to continue shooting in order to prevent the people from holding talks. These are the Soviet proposals. The Soviets conveyed their wish for peace and willingness to assist in achieving peace. First a cease-fire and lifting the blockades. The world advocates one logic

and Syria advocates another. Therefore, this regime is from the stone age. It does not understand the language of the age. Our problem is with a regime from another age."

At the end of his news conference, Gen 'Awn addressed an appeal to the Lebanese in the occupied areas, particularly the Druze and Shiite, to return to their Lebanese roots and not to be drawn by those who encourage them to fight the Lebanese Army and their Lebanese brothers. He said: Henceforth, everyone who fires a single shot at the Lebanese army will be held responsible. Gen 'Awn called on former Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and former Ministers Junblatt and Birri to enter into a dialogue with him as of tomorrow. He said that the dialogue must not only take place among the politicians but should involve all the Lebanese key figures.

RFL Says 'Awn Attacks U.S. Role in Lebanon

NC0209102389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn held a news conference this morning during which he attacked the U.S. role in Lebanon, accusing it of encouraging Syria to continue to occupy Lebanon, to attack the Lebanese, and to destroy their institutions.

General 'Awn urged the Lebanese in the occupied areas, especially the Druze and the Shiites, to revert to their Lebanese genuineness and not to heed those who encourage them to fight the Lebanese Army and their Lebanese brothers.

General Awn said: From now on, whoever fires a single bullet at the Lebanese Army will be personally responsible.

Rome Paper Queries 'Awn on Military Situation

PM3008132789 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 24 Aug 89 p 4

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Michel 'Awn by Lucia Annunziata in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Annunziata] General, what will happen now, when the French fleet arrives?

['Awn] It is not for me to say what will happen. France has decided to act for the sake of the whole of Lebanon. It is a nation which is well-acquainted with the situation in this country and will know how to behave.

[Annunziata] Will the French help you to break the naval blockade imposed on you by the Syrians for many weeks?

['Awn] The French have stated that their mission is humanitarian, and it is not for me to explain what they do or do not intend to do.

[Annunziata] There are many signs that the Syrians are preparing a new offensive and that this could coincide with the arrival of the French.

['Awn] It is true that there are such preparations under way, and I am expecting a new Syrian attack: It could take place anywhere on the front at any time.

[Annunziata] When you say that the French are coming here for everybody's sake, do you also include the Muslims?

['Awn] I have already repeated many times that this is a national war which should involve all Lebanese. Unity must be sought through a plan for national reforms, and in order to formulate it we need the participation of all the country's factions and all its religions. These differences do not matter to me; I talk to everybody without prejudices. Nevertheless, it is necessary to have this convergence, because a single man cannot effect a change; the change we need must be permanent and will have to last for the next 100 years.

[Annunziata] What are your victories so far?

['Awn] Politically we were completely forgotten, but now we are at the center of international attention. Militarily we have succeeded in withstanding all the Syrian attacks, and now resistance actions are beginning to occur in the occupied areas.

[Annunziata] General, whom does the balance of forces favor right now?

['Awn] The endurance and flexibility which we have so far displayed show that it favors us. Obviously we still expect many difficulties, because this is part of this kind of war. The people had not rebelled hitherto solely because there was nobody to organize them.

[Annunziata] Many people in the country believe that the Syrians have adopted delaying tactics because they are waiting for the people in Christian Beirut to grow weary and for opposition to you, which will weaken you, to develop. Is there such a possibility?

['Awn] I do not believe so. Everybody supports me on both sides and will continue to do so, simply because it is impossible to live under Syrian occupation. Syria is a country made up solely of graves and prisons.

[Annunziata] Since you wish to represent the whole of Lebanon, why did you not attempt a political unification of the nation before launching a military operation?

['Awn] Because if I am to talk with the people of West Beirut, these people must first be liberated: They cannot talk under occupation. For instance, what has my proposal for talks right now achieved?

[Annunziata] Is it possible, in your opinion, really to unite a country with all these religious and cultural differences?

['Awn] You know that the fundamentalists are not local elements; they are paid by other nations and kept here to act as terrorist bases. These elements do not come from the country. There are no extremists in Lebanon because it is a country which—precisely because of its diversity—can live only through tolerance.

[Annunziata] What role do you wish to play in the Middle East?

['Awn] I wish to play no role in the Middle East; I wish only to safeguard the sovereignty of my country, which for the present is occupied by Syria. And this must be the starting point.

[Annunziata] If you succeed in restoring sovereignty to your country, what role do you intend to have Lebanon play in the Middle East?

['Awn] We belong to the Arab League, and the role which we will adopt is defined in the league's charter—that of effecting radical cultural and economic changes within this community.

[Annunziata] Since you wish to play no role, if Syria demands your removal before beginning any negotiation, would you step down for your country's good?

['Awn] No, no, never. I would never accept terms from the Syrians, because these people come from another era; they are savages.

[Annunziata] Many Christians are now repeating that you are the new Bashir al-Jumayyil; that the Christian community has never been so strong since the time when it was led by this other leader. Do you believe that you have received Al-Jumayyil's legacy?

['Awn] There is no possible comparison between us. I am Michel 'Awn.

[Annunziata] What is the most important feature which you have in common with Al-Jumayyil?

['Awn] We both wished to liberate our country.

[Annunziata] And what is the most important difference?

['Awn] Age.

Al-Huss Grants Interview, Discusses Crisis

PM3108110089 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 29 Aug 89 p 13

[Interview with Lebanese Muslim Prime Minister Salim al-Huss by Lucia Annunziata in West Beirut—date not given]

[Excerpt] West Beirut—[Passage omitted]

[Annunziata] Minister, what stage have things reached?

[Al-Huss] There is a great deal of diplomatic activity in progress, particularly the Soviet action which started with the arrival of Tarasov who is now working on three immediate objectives: the consolidation of the cease-fire, the end of the military blockade of the ports, the definition of some conditions which may enable the three nations which form the Arab committee to resume their work.

[Annunziata] Do you know what Tarasov discussed with Syria during his visit to Damascus?

[Al-Huss] What we know is that the Syrians are having talks with the Soviet mission and have stated their readiness to cooperate.

[Annunziata] Do the new French initiative and Foreign Minister Dumas' speech follow the same lines as the Russian initiative?

[Al-Huss] I do not know of any similarity, partly because we have not yet heard anything from the French. But the Soviet envoy stressed the fact that they will establish all the necessary contacts with those involved.

[Annunziata] Moscow's intervention in this Lebanese crisis has met with some success, decisively launching the USSR as a direct protagonist in the Middle East region.

[Al-Huss] This is certainly its clearest move, and the Soviet Union has expressed great satisfaction with the results.

[Annunziata] Some people say that all these initiatives could lead to preparations for an international conference on Lebanon which would also include the Arab-Israeli problem. Are we on this path?

[Al-Huss] I hope that our problem will be solved before we reach such a conference. Look, we do not want to see our problems discussed at international negotiations, otherwise we will become hostages of all the complications in relations among the great powers. We are afraid of having a peace-keeping force imposed on us which would divide the country into two and then have to wait a decade before sitting down at a table to start peace talks. We are therefore insisting that the solution should remain at the Arab level.

[Annunziata] What are you asking of the Christians, what is the formula which for you is a possible solution to the conflict?

[Al-Huss] It is not a question of Muslims against Christians, or of General 'Awn, who has only been on the scene for a few months, or of me. It is a matter of reforming the system. There should be three objectives: 1) respect for human rights; 2) the construction of an effective democratic process, which has not yet been established because otherwise we would not have a national crisis; and 3) a strong central government.

[Annunziata] Do you think that the Christians have moved closer to your ideas on reforms in these months of war?

[Al-Huss] There are differences between us; if there were none we would not have a problem. And it is on this that we need foreign mediation.

[Annunziata] The conflict has raised the question of the Syrian occupation which is unacceptable for the kind of democratic system which you would like. Is Syria prepared to withdraw?

[Al-Huss] The Syrians came to Lebanon in 1976 at the legal authorities' request; in 1982 they withdrew from some areas, and in 1987 they were redeployed, again at the legal authorities' request. And we accepted them because of the clashes which were taking place on the streets every day. They will therefore withdraw if they are asked to do so. But the problem is, who will ask them to withdraw? Which are the legal authorities? There are two governments here which reject each other and an important decision like Syria's withdrawal cannot be made by just one side.

Al-Huss Says Lebanon Insists on Arab Solution

NC3008102589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has emphasized that Lebanon insists on Arab solution to the crisis. In a statement to an Italian newspaper, Dr al-Huss said that convening an international conference on Lebanon is not practical because it will take 10 years to make the warring sides sit at the negotiating table. He pointed out that the issue in Lebanon is not one of Muslims and Christians; it is rather an issue of political reforms in the Lebanese system.

AL-HAYAH Interviews Salim Al-Huss

NC0209150989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Commenting on the disagreement about reviving the activities of the higher Arab tripartite committee and its report, amd also commenting on the Casablanca summit resolutions, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said that the issue is not the committee's report but delivering Lebanon from its ordeal within the framework of the summit resolution.

In an interview published by the London-based paper AL-HAYAH today, Al-Huss adds: The Arab committee has spared no effort to overcome any possible obstacle which might obstruct its efforts when it resumes its activities in response to the appeals made to it. The prime minister said the Casablanca summit resolution is clear and incontestable. We do not want to squander it, he added. Al-Huss described his meetings with Francois Scheer, secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, as good in form and context. He added that Scheer reassured him about the reality of the French stand. Al-Huss stressed the importance of France's role: We believe that France can play a constructive and effective role in a solution.

Regarding reports that Al-Huss, French envoy Scheer, and Soviet envoy Tarasov discussed formulas to stabilize the cease-fire and effect a partial Syrian withdrawal, Al-Huss said: The two envoys did not raise the issue of the withdrawal as a plan but all issues were discussed. It was natural that the discussion should touch on this issue, since some brought it up. Al-Huss reiterated his inalienable stand on the Syrian forces' presence, which is in implementation of a decision by the legitimate authority, saying that they must withdraw as a result of a unified government's decision.

Prime Minister al-Huss was asked: How true is the report that General 'Awn has demanded [a Syrian] withdrawal from the Christian mountain, north, and Christian north and what is your attitude about this? Al-Huss answered: If the talk attributed to Gen 'Awn is true then we say this talk is disgraceful. We do not understand the meaning of a Christian mountain or a Christian north because Lebanon is one in our minds, hearts, and consciences. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss was also asked to comment on Gen 'Awn's allegation that the Syrians exerted pressure not to meet with him in Tunis. He answered: This is not the first time Gen 'Awn has alleged that the Syrians prevented me from meeting with him in Tunis. It was 'Awn who uttered this myth when we were summoned to hold consultations with the Arab six-member committee. I do not think that he believes it. [passage omitted]

Birri Addresses Rally, Rejects Syrian Withdrawal

NC3108171389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Amal Movement organized a rally in Ba'labakk today on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the disappearance of Imam al-Sadr. The rally was attended by a number of political and religious figures, foremost among whom were Amal leader Minister Nabih Birri, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qablana, Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir, Shaykh Khalil al-Mays, who represented acting Mufti Shaykh Muhammad Rashid Qabbani, and 'Umar Karami. Delegations representing the 1st and 6th Brigades, the Syrian forces command, and the people of the nationalist areas also attended. [passage omitted]

Speaking during the rally, Minister Birri emphasized that we are living in the era of the Arab version of the 17 May agreement [between Lebanon and Israel in 1983]. He added: We took a positive approach to the Arab committee, but the committee took a negative approach to its work. He added: The Arabs, with the exception of Syria and some other honest parties, are seeking reconciliation with Israel while you are fighting it. How can they stand beside you?

Birri added: What is needed now is not an Arab committee but a Lebanese committee that can persuade the Arabs to abandon the Camp David path. He pointed out that the sickness lies in the regime, which invited and

brought Israel. He added: We want Lebanon to remain an Arab country with excellent relations with Syria.

He went on to say: Syria is dutybound to help us and to stay in the country as an expression of our free will and that of all the patriots and the Muslims. Syria must only leave Lebanon if two conditions—Israel's unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon and the establishment of inter-Lebanese accord—are met. Should the Syrian Army wish to leave for certain considerations or in response to certain pressures, we will oppose it and even fight to prevent its leaving. A Syrian withdrawal must serve the interests of a unified, just, and Arab Lebanon and no other international considerations.

Soviet Source Cited on Reasons for Tarasov Visit

PM3008094189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Aug 89 p 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Message for Saddam from Gorbachev on Lebanon"]

[Excerpts] Beirut, Damascus, Amman, Baghdad, Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, agencies— There has been an escalation of diplomatic moves aimed at ending the current confrontation in Lebanon. Parallel to the French-Syrian talks in Damascus it was officially announced in Baghdad that Soviet Envoy Gennadiy Tarasov has delivered a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

A Soviet diplomatic source in Beirut has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the contacts carried out by Soviet Envoy Tarasov had two aims: To prevent a major explosion in Lebanon and eliminate Syrian reservations regarding the call for an end to the blockade on the eastern areas in Lebanon.

The source said that it seems that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad insists on formation of a committee to inspect ships heading for the ports in these areas or, alternatively, an international guarantee that no arms would be sent to the military government headed by General Michel 'Awn.

He added that Gen 'Awn's reaction to the Soviet move was positive but he insisted that ships going to Beirut port must not be inspected.

In the light of these attitudes, the source said, the Soviet envoy proceeded to Jordan and Iraq. [passage omitted]

Israeli Aircraft Raid on PFLP-GC Positions

NC0409054989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Our security correspondent in Western al-Biqa' has reported that the air raid which Israeli warplanes carried out against southern areas last night was targeted against positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in Majdal Balhis near Rashayya. The raid wounded a number of people. Thirty minutes later, at 0230, two Zionist warplanes conducted mock raids over Mashgharah, Suhmur, and nearby areas.

4 Hurt in Israeli Raid

NC0409083689 Paris AFP in English 0752 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Rashaya, Lebanon, Sep 4 (AFP)—Israeli warplanes late Sunday raided a position in Syrian-controlled southern Lebanon held by a radical Palestinian group, wounding four militants, local security sources reported.

Four Phantom jets attacked a base held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in the community of Majdal Balhis in the southern part of the Al-Biqa' valley, according to security sources in the area.

They said four Palestinian militants were hurt, one seriously, in a raid that took place 12 kilometers (seven miles) north of the Israeli-imposed "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

The raid destroyed a building used by the PFLP-GC to coordinate its activities inside Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to security sources.

But the pro-Syrian PFLP-GC, which is not part of the Palestine Liberation Organization umbrella group, said only one person was hurt in the attack on what it described as an administrative building.

An Israeli military spokesman late Sunday announced that all Israeli aircraft had returned safely "after bombing buildings used as headquarters by terrorist organizations."

It was the 10th Israeli air strike on southern Lebanon this year and the third on positions held by the PFLP-GC. Attacks in March and May killed 13 people and injured 31.

Amal Claims Attack on Israeli-Lahd Patrol

NC0509062289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] The Amal Movement has claimed responsibility for an attack on a joint patrol of the Israeli forces and Lahd militias in Wadi al-Jarmaq. An armored personnel carrier received direct hits, killing or wounding its crew.

Syrians Reportedly Seize Tripoli Refinery

NC0309162289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] According to information received from the north, the Syrian occupation forces today seized the Tripoli oil refinery with the help of their collaborator Ahmad 'Awadah. The information added that the

refinery workers and employees might initiate a strike tomorrow to protest the Syrian action and 'Awadah's involvement.

Fighting Reported; Al-Yarzah Gunboats Attacked

NC0409062689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Intermittent clashes are currently raging along the traditional combat lines following violent clashes along the Dahr al-Wahsh and al-Matn last night. Villages in the northern and Upper al-Matn were targets of concentrated bombardment yesterday. [passage omitted] The shelling left 4 people dead and 12 others wounded in West Beirut and the southern Suburb, and 2 people wounded in east Beirut. [passage omitted]

According to security sources, a number of gunboats belonging to the al-Yarzah Army were spotted off the Normande coast between 2130 and 2200 last night. The army and the National Front forces deployed in the area directed their gunfire at the gunboats.

Army Vehicle Attacked; Casualties Reported

NC0409063489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] The National Front's operations room has stated that last night one of the front's groups ambushed a military vehicle passing in the security zone of the Al-Yarzah ['Awn's] Army in Duhur al-Shuwayr. All of the vehicle's passengers, estimated at 10 troops, were either killed or wounded.

Explosive Device Said Responsible for Blast

NC0509094289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] A final security report on the explosion of the bobby-trapped car this morning indicates that a device containing between 60 and 80 kg of explosives went off inside a green Mercedes 200. The driver of the car was killed in the explosion and his body blown to bits.

Another person was killed inside a Honda Civic parked near the Mercedes. Police found antivehicle mines, tape, and wireless equipment inside the Honda.

1 Killed, 7 Injured in Blast

NC0509074689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] According to preliminary security reports, the explosion near the Al-Mukallas traffic circle was a result of an antivehicle landmine which went off under a BMW car. A second landmine was discovered before detonating.

The explosion caused a number of casualties, and was targeted against a vegetable market and a parking lot near the Jimmick Market in the district. Fires broke out in a number of cars parked in the area. The explosion of the cars' fuel tanks led to other explosions.

At 0940, the fire brigades succeeded in putting out the car fires.

Four persons were wounded and taken to the Al-Hayik hopital, as was the body of a person killed in the explosion. The wounded, who have been identified as Teres Musa, Nawal Ishaq, Jamal Mulla, and Christine Risha, have all been released. Other casualties have been taken to other hospitals in the area.

The security apparatus has asked the citizens to stay off the roads leading to the scene of the incident to facilitate rescue operations.

We have just been informed that three wounded persons have been taken to the Mar Yusuf hospital. They are Na'im Jabir Ashqar, 'Afif Khalil Hallaq, and Sofia Najib al-Ashqar. This raises to seven the number of wounded persons who have so far been identified.

[Paris AFP in English at 0741 GMT on 5 September reports that "at least two people were killed and nine wounded when a car bomb exploded Tuesday at a crowded vegetable market in a Christian suburb."]

Shelling Injures Nasirite Unionist Movement Head

NC0109153989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] Dr Samir Sabbagh, leader of the Nasirite Unionist Movement, was injured today when a shell fell on his house. He was taken to the hospital and released after treatment.

In another development, REUTER has reported that 17 persons were killed and 77 others wounded in the past 24 hours.

President Al-Asad Returns From Visit to Libya

JN0209190489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus from Tripoli this evening after taking part in the brotherly Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the 1 September revolution. Returning with the president was the accompanying delegation comprising Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; Comrade Dr Tawfiq Salihah, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; 'Abd-al-Ghani Qannut, member of the Central Committee of the Progressive Nationalist Front; and Ghassan al-Halabi, minister of education.

Before departing Tripoli for home, President Hafiz al-Asad met with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution in Libya. The meeting was attended by the members of the delegation accompanying the president.

The meeting was followed by a closed one between the president and Col al-Qadhdhafi. During the two meetings, talks revolved around the current issues in both the Arab and international arenas.

Al-Asad, Tunisian President Confer by Telephone

JN0309204698 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today held a telephone conversation with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. During the conversation they discussed bilateral issues of interest to the two fraternal countries within the framework of completing the discussion of issues the two presidents discussed during their meeting in Tripoli.

Cambodian Leader Sends Message to Al-Asad

JN1308074489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Cambodian State Council Chairman Heng Samrin has sent a message to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on the situation in Cambodia.

The message was received by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during a meeting he had yesterday evening with Long Visalo, Cambodian deputy foreign affairs minister, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'ullah al-Fattal.

Al-Zu'bi Meets Cypriot Commerce Minister

JN0209164089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Damascus—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1330 today Takis Nemitsas, Cypriot minister of commerce and industry, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Muhammad al-Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, as well as the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus.

Discussions dealt with the developed bilateral relations and the horizons of cooperation which continuously expand to include various economic, trade, tourist, and cultural fields.

The guest minister expressed appreciation for Syria's progress under President Hafiz al-Asad.

The two sides asserted the importance of the talks the guest minister is holding with officials in Damascus to expand the relations of trade exchange, tourist cooperation, and the establishment of joint enterprises through agreements that enhance the spheres of cooperation and achieve the joint interest of the two friendly countries and peoples.

Bulgarian Official Heads Visiting Delegation

Received by Planning Official

JN3008185489 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus, 30 Aug (SANA)—Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, received here today Nikola Kalchev, Bulgarian deputy foreign economic relations minister, and his delegation.

During the meeting, they reviewed the projects listed in the protocol for economic cooperation signed by the two countries, and ways to enhance bilateral economic relations, and the bilateral cooperation in various spheres—particularly in the fields of hydraulically operated equipment; the food, oil, and gas industries; and trade exchanges. They also exchanged views on the preparations for the meetings of the Joint Syrian-Bulgarian Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation whose next session will be held in Damascus.

Meets Prime Minister al-Zu'bi

JN0309144789 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Damascus, 3 Sep (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi today received Nikola Kalchev, Bulgarian deputy foreign economic relations minister.

During the meeting, they discussed the advanced relations between Syria and Bulgaria in all fields and ways of strengthening trade exchange. They also discussed the projects implemented through cooperation between the two countries and the importance of developing them.

Editorial Says Syria Aids Lebanese Security

JN0209133489 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Damascus, 2 Sep (SANA)—In today's editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN says: When 'Awn's gang, the Iraqi regime, Israel, and specific international forces call for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon, they are trying to obliterate the crux of the Lebanese crisis and implement a scheme inimical to Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab nation.

TISHRIN adds: This conspiratorial scheme is intended to create another Israel in the fraternal country to pose a continued threat to drain Syria's capabilities, thereby preventing it from carrying out its pan-Arab role in the arena of Arab-Israeli conflict.

TISHRIN continues: The Lebanese situation desired by the rancorous 'Awn gang would have no chance of success with the presence of a majority of the population who adhere to their pan-Arab affiliation. Indeed, when 'Awn shells West Beirut nationalist areas, he points to the fate awaiting their population, namely, departing Lebanon.

TISHRIN says: We ask those who are shedding crocodile tears for Lebanon and calling for the withdrawal of Syrian troops: What will be the guarantee for the nationalist Lebanese people, who form the vast majority of the Lebanese people? Why is it that the Syrian withdrawal cannot be carried out after achieving national accord and setting up a government of national reconciliation?

TISHRIN adds: The national accord requires the presence in East Beirut of a Lebanese side that believes in accord and reconciliation. This side exists, but it is not 'Awn and his gang, which always has rejected any talk about political reform which, the paper says, is the approach to any national accord.

TISHRIN concludes by saying that concern over Lebanon comes from concern over Lebanon's people and Arabism, and not from depriving the Lebanese people of factors of power, thus leaving them easy prey for Israel's agents.

AL-BA'TH on Calls for Pullout From Lebanon

JN0309091889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Sep 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH has editorialized on the importance of the fraternal and national role being played by Syria in Lebanon to save the Lebanese from destruction and annihilation. AL-BA'TH says: When it decided to enter Lebanon, Syria was well aware that its action would not be to the liking of certain parties and quarters. The reason is that the Syrian presence would prevent the implementation of the schemes and objectives of these same parties and quarters.

AL-BA'TH adds: Hence, when Syria says openly that it cannot flatter anybody on the Lebanese issue, that is because it is the party closest to events and the party that is most fully aware of the consequences of relinquishing its pan-Arab role there. We do not want to note here the importance of Syria's presence in Lebanon. However, it is still useful to say something of primary importance; that is, Syria's withdrawal—which is desired by some—at this point in Lebanon's current situation would perpetuate Israel's effective presence not only in southern Lebanon, but also in the heart of the capital, Beirut. This, of course, cannot serve the interests of Lebanon, Syria, or any Arab state.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: However, Syria's policies, as always, are based on firm pan-Arab stands that are not affected by secondary issues, which is the case with others. Syria has said and continues to say that we have to make sacrifices and continue to do so, in view of the significance of Lebanon in terms of Syria's security, especially considering that the conflict with the Zionist enemy continues to be with us. No, this conflict is still in its infancy despite statements to the contrary.

Commentary Reviews Arab Solution for Lebanon

JN0309135589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during which he joined the Libyan people in their celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the 1 September revolution, was replete with important Arab political meetings.

It is not strange for leader Al-Asad to hold such a number of meetings with Arab leaders and officials during this visit, although it was short and the revolution celebrations were many. The Arab concern has always been Syria's concern, and the Arab coordination and understanding has always been the major headline for every Arab move made by leader Al-Asad. The president's interest in joining Libya and its leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the revolution is only an expression of a pan-Arab commitment to support a revolution with a pan-Arab tendency and a commitment to support and back it for better and for worse.

If international media paid special attention to certain meetings held by the president with Arab leaders, this was because these meetings were related to developments in the Arab arena in general, and the Lebanese arena in particular.

The two meetings held by leader Al-Asad with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Moroccan King Hassan II received significant international media coverage because they were related to developments in Lebanon. Although they were quite important, these two meetings fell within the framework of the aforementioned concern

to which leader Al-Asad adheres in order to keep the door open for dialogue, understanding, and coordination with all Arab leaders and to his interest in treating every Arab concern within this framework of dialogue and understanding.

While the Lebanese problem comes before other Arab concerns, the two Arab leaders—Bendjedid and Hassan II—undoubtedly felt during their talks with President al-Asad on the situation in Lebanon, the extent of Syria's adherence to its pan-Arab stands toward the fraternal country. They also felt its adherence to keeping the door open for Arab efforts to find a solution to the problem of this afflicted country, terminate its dilemma, and end its suffering in a manner that will guarantee its territorial integrity, the firmness of its affiliation to its Arabism and nation, and equality among all its different sects.

We do not want to speak on behalf of the two members of the Arab tripartite committee—President Bendjedid and King Hassan II—regarding their impressions about their meetings with the president. However, these two meetings have undoubtedly, and to a large extent, contributed to both Arab leaders' understanding of Syria's positions, particularly toward developments in the Lebanese arena. These two meetings have also forcibly prevented those who claim allegiance to Arabism and others from hampering the work of the Arab tripartite committee. It is not unlikely for those saboteurs—especially those who claim allegiance to Arabism—to escalate their activities in this direction in an attempt to besiege the good results of Al-Asad's meetings with Bendjedid and Hassan II.

Leader Al-Asad once again confirmed to the two Arab leaders Syria's adherence to resolving the Lebanese crisis on the basis of implementing the Casablanca resolution on Lebanon and its readiness to render every assistance to the Arab tripartite committee in this direction.

This renewed confirmation originates from Syria's clinging to the Arab solution, its belief in the need for Arabs to resolve their questions, and its adherence to its pan-Arab concept on solutions for Arab problems.

Syrian Presence in Lebanon Called 'Legitimate'

JN0509105089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Sep 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH has written about the legitimate Syrian presence in Lebanon dictated by the Lebanese situation and called for by Lebanese and Arab will. AL-BA'TH says: All the Lebanese as well as the Arabs know full well that the Syrian presence in Lebanon was never and will never be a continuous presence that clings to the land or encroaches on sovereignty. This is because the Syrian presence was, in the first place, dictated by circumstances in Lebanon and called for by an Arab and Lebanese will to carry out a unifying salvage mission after the outbreak of the Lebanese civil war and the prevailing threat of partition in the sisterly state.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria, which announced on many occasions that it has no ambitions in the sisterly Lebanese country and that it seeks—more than others—a just solution in Lebanon, will prove to everybody at the appropriate time that it carried out its mission in Lebanon on behalf of all honest Arabs. Syria also will prove that it will never hesitate to withdraw its troops from the Lebanese territory when the reasons for its presence there are removed and when a national unity government, which raises the flag of Arabism in Lebanon, is established there to safeguard security, achieve justice, and lead all Lebanese under one flag to liberate the south.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The Lebanese adhere to the Syrian presence because they adhere to their Arabism and pan-Arab affiliation and because they reject subservience to Israel. What other pretext have those who want Lebanon to remain Arab, achieve national reconciliation, and be a supporter of all the Arabs in their decisive battle with the enemy?

Paper Says Bush Warned About Israeli Actions

JN0409124889 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Damascus, 4 Sep (SANA)—In today's comment, the newspaper TISHRIN deals with the memorandum submitted by a number of U.S. President George Bush's aides on the Middle East situation calling on him to move before it is too late.

TISHRIN says: If this information is true, Bush's aides would be sounding the alarm because Shamir is ready to perpetrate thousands of massacres and kill tens of thousands of Palestinians within the sight and hearing of the entire world and U.S. officials who claim to raise the banner of defending human rights.

TISHRIN affirms: The current U.S. Administration is still captive to old formulas imposed by the Zionist lobby during the days of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The U.S. position is still the same, namely, to pressure Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular to make fundamental concessions.

TISHRIN explains that not one PLO concession was reciprocated by even a formal Israeli concession. The elections proposed by Shamir are no more than a theatrical gesture to absorb the indignation of world public opinion, erode the Palestinian stand, and weaken the intifadah [uprising].

TISHRIN concludes by saying that U.S. credibility is undergoing a test, especially since Israel is deceiving the Americans to gain time and go ahead with its criminal schemes. This alarm is being sounded by top American officials. So will it meet responsive ears in the White House?

PDRY Minister Makes Statement, Departs

JN0209203089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Damascus—Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, culture and information minister in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], and the accompanying delegation today left Damascus following a week-long visit to Syria at the invitation of Information Minister Muhammad Salman.

Before departing, Dr Jarhum gave a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he said: I am very happy because my visit to Syria was successful. We have reached many agreements which will intensify information contacts between the PDRY and Syrian radio and television. We also reached agreements in the field of exchanging publications.

He also praised the positive developments achieved in all fields in Syria. He voiced the admiration and appreciation of the Yemeni political leadership and people for the strong relations existing with brotherly Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad. He stressed that the strong relations between the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the political leadership have greatly contributed to strengthening and developing the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries.

Radio-TV Agreement Signed With PDRY

EA0309184889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] A cooperation protocol in the field of radio and television between Democratic Yemen and Syria was signed in Damascus this afternoon by the director general of Democratic Yemen's radio and TV corporation and the director general of the Syrian general radio and TV corporation. Also present were Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirghun, member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and information, and Muhammad Salman, the Syrian minister of information.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry: No Soviet Military Advisers

BK3009152089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1515 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept 3 (AFP)—The Afghan Foreign Ministry Sunday said no Soviet military advisors were present in Afghanistan and statements to the contrary were designed to disguise Western and other intervention in the war here. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejects the claim that there are 300 Soviet military advisors in Afghanistan," the ministry said in a formal statement released here on the eve of the Belgrade summit of non-aligned nations.

The denial refuted statements made last week in Islamabad by U.S. Ambassador Peter Tomsen, Washington's special envoy to the Afghan resistances, who said Moscow had kept more than 300 military advisors in Afghanistan. He said one of the advisors' functions was "supervising" the firing of Soviet-made Scud-B missiles, used extensively in the government defence of the strategic eastern cities of Khowst and Jalalabad.

Observers noted that the Foreign Ministry statement appeared to be at variance with statements by Soviet Embassy officials here since Moscow's troop withdrawal was completed February 15.

Responsible embassy sources have said there are about 25 military advisors in Kabul, but have argued that their presence is not against the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, which set out the terms of the troop withdrawal. They have also denied allegations that any of the military advisors have taken part in field operations.

"By raising such claims, they (the United States) try to disguise the clear intervention of Western advisors, Pakistanis and Wahhabi mercenaries" assisting the mujahidin resistance, the statement said.

The statement added that the United States' intention to continue to provide military aid to the mujahidin until the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah was toppled indicated the "warmongering policy" of the U.S. and its plans to continue "international terrorism."

Before leaving for the Belgrade conference, Mr. Najibullah issued a separate statement to the state-owned media saying he expected the Non-Aligned Movement to make a "realistic assessment" of the Afghan situation and play a role in seeking a peaceful solution.

In his absence, Mr. Najibullah appointed First Vice President 'Abdul Rahim Hatef as acting president and head of the Supreme Council for the Defence of the Homeland.

Soviet Confirms Advisers Present

BK0409161489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1600 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 4 (AFP)—A senior Soviet diplomat said Monday that there were 300 technical advisers in Afghanistan, where he said only a political solution could end the 10-year-old war.

The new Soviet charge d'affaires here, Igor A. Saprykin, said at a press briefing coinciding with the start of the three-day summit of the non-aligned movement (NAM) that the advisers were in Afghanistan under a treaty.

The Soviet diplomat's comment confirmed a charge made by U.S. special envoy to the Afghan resistance, Peter Tomsen, on Thursday in Pakistan that military advisers were in Afghanistan to supervise firing of Scud missiles. Mr. Tomsen said the Scud missiles were causing "massive destruction" in the country.

Mr. Saprykin said the Afghan war could end only through a political solution and brushed aside any possibility of the ouster of the Kabul government of President Najibullah, noting that it was recognised by most countries.

He added: "Only few recognise the opponents (mujahidin) group who are now fighting among themselves in 10 provinces. Only in Jalalabad and Khowst they are fighting the government troops."

A political solution is expected to be advocated at the NAM summit in Belgrade and the imminent 44th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, he said, adding that non-implementation of the U.N.-brokered Geneva accords was prolonging the war in Afghanistan and the world body should "make efforts to speed up its role to find a way to solve the crisis."

Mr. Saprykin, who arrived in Dhaka only nine weeks ago, also reiterated Moscow's appeal for the release of 311 soldiers still listed as missing since the 1979 entry of Soviet troops into Afghanistan and allegedly held by the rebels.

In reply to a question he said Moscow had offered to pay for the release of the surviving soldiers in cash, but so far had received no response. "International humanitarian organisations, including those of Bangladesh, could help ensure their release," he said.

The charge d'affaires said Afghanistan would have to adhere to a non-aligned, independent policy to maintain a lasting peace.

Najibullah Departs for Nonaligned Summit

BK0309055089 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 3 Sep 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] In Afghanistan, guerrilla forces have carried out one of their heaviest attacks yet this year on Kabul

airport, subjecting it to intense rocket fire. More than 20 rockets are said to have landed on the airport; many more hit the city itself. At least 16 people were killed in the attacks. Lyce Ducet reports from Kabul:

[Begin Ducet recording] After months of mainly striking residential areas, the guerrillas in the last few weeks apparently shifted fire toward the main airport, which has a military section. Its latest barrage was the heaviest against this target this year. The government says 10 airport employees died and more than 20 were wounded. Scheduled civilian flights were cancelled.

But by evening, aircraft were flying out of Kabul. One carried President Najibullah and his aides en route for the nonaligned summit, which opens in Belgrade on Monday [4 September]—a meeting where (?Kabul will) press for a negotiated settlement to this war, despite the guerrilla leaders' continuing refusal to include the president in any peace talks.

In a military ceremony which had to be held at the presidential palace rather than the airport, the Afghan leader was sent off by his entire cabinet, the supreme military council, and some East bloc diplomats, after final consultations with his security chief and the first vice president, 'Abdul Rahim Hatef, who will take charge in his absence. It would be President Najibullah's first major international conference since the withdrawal of Soviet troops in February. His government has survived despite widespread predictions of imminent collapse.

But there is concern here about the security in Kabul and other major cities as the guerrillas step up their military pressure. One of the guerrillas main targets is now Khowst, the garrison town which lies only 25 miles from the Pakistan border and the guerrillas' main supply line. Like Jalalabad, which the mujahidin failed to capture, it could serve as a possible site for the guerrillas' interim government, which is still based in Pakistan. [end recording]

Afghan Group Spokesman on Interim Government

LD0309090889 Tehran IRNA in English 0826 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 3, IRNA—The interim Afghan mujahidin government is not one representing all mujahidin groups, therefore, it has not been successful and will not achieve much in future, said spokesman of the Council of Islamic Coalition of Afghanistan, Sayyed Zahir Mohaqeq.

In an interview with the morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI published Sunday he said that all groups within the interim government including Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami have now become aware of this reality. He told the paper without participation of all mujahidin groups success will not become possible and expressed regrets over disunity among Afghan groups.

Mohaqeq stressed that the interim government has lost its effectiveness and thus can never be successful, a situation which he regreted. "We hope that the Afghan mujahidin groups have realized this and will now join hands for independence and liberation of their country," he said.

On a recent statement by a U.S. official on Afghanistan affair expressing concern on non-participation of Shiite groups in the interim government and wrath of the Shiite Muslims against the U.S., he said "it seems the U.S. is for establishment of an all-embracing government. The U.S. has understood that no government is total without participation of Shiite groups."

He added "this is why the U.S. has softened its position and encouraged participation of Shiite groups in the government."

He made it clear that the U.S. is not for an active and powerful role by the Shiites, but is rather for a passive role by the group.

On future of Afghan movement, he said that the coalition is for continuation of the struggle till the complete overthrow of the Kabul regime and establishment of an Islamic Government based on Islamic justice.

French Delegation Requests Pardon for Citizen

LD0109170789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Faruq Karmand met this afternoon in his office with a delegation from France.

During this meeting the French delegation handed over a message to the deputy foreign minister from French President Francois Mitterand addressed to Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan. The message requested the Esteemed Najibollah to pardon French citizen, Xavier Lemire, who entered the territory of the Republic of Afhanistan with an Afghan armed opposition group.

Rival Rebel Groups Deny Killing Frenchman

BK0409123289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1222 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Sept 4 (AFP)—Afghan resistance rival groups Monday described as "baseless" a Kabul Television report that a French national died and three others were captured in fighting between the groups in northern Afghanistan.

Kabul Television, in an unsourced report, claimed that guerrillas of a radical rebel leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar and the moderate fundamentalists leader Burhanuddin Rabbani clashed in Panjsher region in northern Parwan Province.

Without giving the date of the incident, the report claimed that mujahidin of Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami captured 15 people belonging to Mr. Rabbani's Jamiyat-e Eslami in an ambush. One Frenchman was

killed and three others were taken prisoner by Hezb-e Eslami fighters, the report said.

In seperate statements spokesmen of both Jamiyat and Hezb-e Eslami have said the report was "devoid of any truth."

"Kabul regime is our enemy and report of Kabul Television will not be without animosity," a spokesman of Mr. Hekmatyar said, adding that the "report is a mere fiction."

A Jamiyat-e Eslami spokesman told AFP, "we have received no such report. There is no truth" in the report he said, adding that the Afghan media had been "concocting reports to defame the mujahidin." The latest report is part of its "false propaganda to involve foreigners. Also to get publicity abroad," he said. [passage omitted]

Rocket Attacks on Kabul Area, Airport Continue

'Extremists' Fire U.S.-Made Missiles

LD0209162989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Criminal extremists, functionaries of the U.S. and Pakistani state terrorism, today fired eight U.S. missiles onto residential areas and crowded places of Kabul city and martyred or injured 36 compatriots, including women and children. The BIA military section reports that as a result of this anti-Islamic and inhumane action by the criminal extremists, six of our compatriots were martyred while engaged in their daily routine in town in order to earn a lawful wage and who had come to the city to buy goods for their families. Dozens of innocent children became orphans, and dozens of families are in mourning for the loss of their loved ones. Another 30 compatriots were badly injured by the U.S. missiles. The injured were transported to hospitals and were given immediate treatment and observation.

The BIA adds that one of the missiles fired by the criminal extremists landed on a commercial market in Mandaway Wat. As a result the market caught fire and 14 shops were destroyed and the fruits of many years of hard work of a number of our compatriots were burned. The total cost of the damage by this fire is estimated at more than 12 million afghanis.

Mujahidin Resume Rocket Attacks

BK0209101489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0901 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept 2 (AFP)—A barrage of mujahidin rockets halted flights at Kabul airport Saturday morning and passengers trying to board a Moscow-bound civilian flight were sent back to the city for their own safety, witnesses and semi-official sources said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage in the attack, which appeared to have been launched from the nearby Chakari Khod Mountains only a few kilometres (miles) to the east of Kabul.

The barrage, the first on the airport since Tuesday, came amid reports that President Najibullah would fly from Kabul to Belgrade to attend the Non-Aligned Movement Summit meeting there September 4-7.

Observers noted that the usual stream of Soviet cargo planes which fly from Tashkent in the Soviet Union to Kabul daily with ammunition and fuel supplies had also halted.

Civilians trying to get to the airport late in the morning were turned back from the entrance road to the airport and trucks carrying ammunition to the adjoining military airstrip were held waiting about two km (one mile) away, witnesses said.

Further on Airport Attack

BK0209143489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1429 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept 2 (AFP)—A barrage of at least 27 mujahidin rockets halted all flights at Kabul airport Saturday as another volley of five missiles crashed in the main bazaar area triggering a large fire, eye-witnesses said.

Passengers trying to leave Kabul on flights to New Delhi and Moscow were sent back to the city for their own safety. They said at least 27 rockets crashed in and around the terminal area. One passenger said 14 people were injured at the airport.

Witnesses also said five missiles had landed in and around the city's main bazaar area and late afternoon ambulances and fire engines, sirens wailing, were seen rushing into the district. There were no official reports available on casualties or the number of rockets, which appeared to have been fired from the Chakri Khod Mountains a few kilometers (miles) to the east of Kabul.

The barrage, the heaviest on the capital since Tuesday, came amid reports that President Najibullah would fly to Belgrade during the weekend for the Non-Aligned Movement summit starting Monday.

Airline sources said no civilian flights would be able to depart Saturday, and by late afternoon the only civilians entering the airport area were those trying to pick up luggage they had abandoned earlier in the day.

Observers said the usual stream of Soviet cargo planes which fly daily from Tashkent in the Soviet Union to Kabul daily with ammunition and fuel supplies had also halted.

'Official Spokesman' Comments

BK0209161889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1557 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept 2 (AFP)—At least 14 people were killed and 56 injured when mujahidin guerrillas fired rockets Saturday at Kabul airport and the capital's main bazaar area, an official spokesman said.

The attack on the airport left 10 employees dead and 22 injured, some of them staff of the national airline Ariana, and came as Afghan President Najibullah was reportedly preparing to leave Kabul by air for the Non-Aligned Movement summit opening in Belgrade on Monday. A government spokesman said the runway was still operational despite the rocket barrage. Unofficial reports said one person had been killed and four injured in a mud house mahro near the airport.

All civilian flights were cancelled and passengers sent scrambling back into the city without their luggage as the rockets, estimated by eyewitnesses to number between 27 and 30, smashed in and around the departure area.

At least one civilian flight to Moscow and two to New Delhi were cancelled, airline sources said, and the barrage also halted the normal stream of cargo planes which fly daily into Kabul from the Soviet Union with supplies of ammunition and fuel.

There was no immediate word from officials on whether Mr. Najibullah and his entourage had left the city by late Saturday for Belgrade, but government sources said the departure time would be kept secret.

Later Saturday at least five rockets smashed into the Chindawal bazaar area behind the Kabul Hotel, triggering a huge fire in a plastics market. At least two charred bodies were seen being dragged from the area and an official spokesman later said that four people were reported killed and 14 injured from three of the five rockets. "These reports are not complete," the spokesman said.

Elsewhere in the country the government reported continued heavy fighting in the eastern city of Khowst where mujahidin rockets and artillery fire killed seven soldiers and three civilians—a baby and two women.

Heavy aerial and artillery bombardment by the Afghan government forces in Khowst left 45 mujahidin guerrillas dead and 68 injured, the government said, citing latest intelligence reports.

Two posts lost last week to the south of Khowst had not yet been recaptured, a spokesman said, but the army was on the offensive and the mujahidin "on the defensive" around the city, where heavy mujahidin shelling of the airport was continuing. Kabul can only resupply Khowst by air and military sources have reported scores of flights leaving the capital by night for the airport located some six kilometres (four miles) east of Khowst. All land access to the city has been cut by resistance fighters. Long-range artillery and rocket duels were also reported in the eastern city of Jalalabad and at Qandahar in the south, the government spokesman said.

The government has attributed the increase in guerrilla activity in the past few days to a bid by the U.S. and Pakistan-backed mujahidin to make a strong showing before the NAM summit opens in Belgrade.

At the summit, Afghan officials say, Mr. Najibullah will attempt to argue that Pakistan and the United States, rather than the Soviet Union, are responsible for the continuation of the war in Afghanistan since the Soviet troop withdrawal was completed in February.

Flights From USSR Suspended

BK0309031489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have launched the heaviest attack of the year on Kabul airport. Thirty rockets fell near [word indistinct] the airport and some fell on the city, killing some persons. After the attack on the airport, civilian flights were canceled. The flights from the Soviet Union carrying ammunition and food were also suspended.

District Army Officer Killed

BK0209132489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say a fierce battle is continuing near the city of Khowst between the mujahidin and Kabul regime troops. During an attack by mujahidin, the chief of staff of Dargai is reported to have been killed in one of the two tanks which were destroyed by mujahidin. Seven Kabul troops were also killed. As the battle continued around Khowst, about 60 Kabul regime soldiers surrendered to the mujahidin along with their weapons.

Mujahidin are also reported to have (?fired) a barrage of rockets at the Kabul airport this morning. The attack was launched from the recently captured post of Dargai.

Rebels Destroy Posts on Kabul-Jalalabad Highway

BK0309133089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have made more rocket attacks on Kabul and its surrounding areas, inflicting heavy losses in men and material to the Kabul regime forces. Reports say at least 30 rockets hit Kabul airport and its adjoining areas.

On Khowst front, fierce fighting between the mujahidin and Kabul regime forces is continuing. Mujahidin are reported to be advancing from three directions. They have also destroyed most of the security posts located between Sarowbi and Kabul on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway.

Bangladesh

President Ershad Leaves for Nonaligned Summit

BK0309131689 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] The ninth nonaligned summit begins in Belgrade Monday. Heads of state and government of 102 nations have started arriving in the Yugoslav capital to attend the summit. One hundred and sixty delegations, including 10 observers and 20 guest delegations from nongovernment organizations are expected to attend the 4-day summit.

President Ershad left Dhaka Sunday [3 September] morning for Belgrade to attend the conference. He is accompanied by Begum Ershad. The president leads a 13-member delegation to the summit.

Foreign Minister Returns From DPRK, PRC Visits

BK2708163889 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud returned to Dhaka today after a weeklong visit to North Korea and China. Talking to newsmen, he said his visit has been extremely useful and will contribute to further strengthening of bilateral ties with the two countries.

Supreme Court Nullifies Constitutional Amendment

BK0209082289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0803 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 2 (AFP)—Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Saturday [2 September] nullified part of a government-sponsored constitutional amendment involving the judiciary in the first such action by the high court.

In a three-to-one judgment, the court's appellate division declared that provisions of the Constitution's Eighth Amendment calling for creation of six high court benches outside dhaka were illegal.

Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury read out the order in the crowded courtroom here after a protracted 31-day hearing on the controversial amendment, passed by parliament in June and challenged by a group of local lawyers. It was the first time a constitutional amendment has been nullified by the Supreme Court, which is empowered to arbitrate disputes over interpretation of the Constitution.

The Eighth Amendment provisions allowing high courts to be established outside Dhaka had been instituted under President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's policy of decentralisation of the judiciary. The government-backed amendment also made Islam Bangladesh's state religion, which the lawyers' petition did not challenge.

Official reaction to the judgment, which experts here said could have far-reaching legal and constitutional repercussions, was not immediately available.

Awami League's Strike Paralyzes Country 3 Sep

BK0409015089 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] In Bangladesh, normal life was paralyzed this morning, following the 6-hour general strike. The strike call was given by the 8-party alliance led by the Awami League. The strike was in protest against last month's armed attack on the Awami League leader, Sheikh Hasina.

In Dhaka, shops, educational institutions, and business establishments were closed. Vehicular traffic was off the road.

Shanti Bahini Insurgents Surrender 26 Aug

BK2708164489 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Two members of the so-called Shanti Bahini [peace force] [words indistinct] surrendered to the security forces at two separate places in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Saturday [26 August]. While surrendering, the Shanti Bahini activists said that they were impressed by the gesture of President Ershad who has again declared amnesty for the misguided youths of Chittagong Hill Tracts to enable them to return to normal life. They said most of the Bahini members were frustrated and internal feuds among them are taking a serious turn. They further said that the so-called Shanti Bahini has now turned into a gang of dacoits [robbers]. They are committing dacoity, murder, arson, and other heinous crimes against their own people.

Medical School Closed Indefinitely After Violence

BK2808163489 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] The Rajshahi Medical College has been closed for an indefinite period. The academic council of the college took the decision today, following deterioration of law and order situation in the campus. The male students have been asked to vacate halls by 1900 [1300 GMT] this evening and female students by 0700 tomorrow morning. The MBBS [bachelor of medicine and bachelor of science] professional examinations will, however, be held on schedule from the 3d of next month.

India

Natwar Singh on Postponed SAARC Ministers Meet

BK0309005289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] The postponed SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign ministers meeting is likely to be held in November in Islamabad. This was disclosed to newsmen by the minister of state for

external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in Belgrade yesterday after a meeting with the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne.

The foreign ministers meeting was to be held in Islamabad in the last week of June, but could not take place because of Sri Lanka's boycott.

Gandhi Leaves for Belgrade for Nonaligned Summit

BK0309081689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has left New Delhi to attend the ninth nonaligned summit beginning in the Yugoslav capital, Belgrade, tomorrow.

Mr Gandhi will address the plenary session of the summit on the opening day itself. Over 100 heads of state and government will be attending. Immediately on his arrival in Belgrade this afternoon, Mr Gandhi will chair the summit meeting of nine-member AFRICA [Aid for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism, and Apartheid] Fund. A report prepared by India will be finalized at this meeting. Mr Gandhi, who is the chairman of the AFRICA Fund, will present his report to the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit.

The prime minister will also have a number of bilateral meetings with several heads of state and government. He will have a luncheon meeting with King Birendra of Nepal.

The Indian delegation to the NAM summit includes [the external affairs minister] Mr Narasimha Rao and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, who are already in Belgrade. Other members of the delegation will be the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr Muchkund Dubey; the prime minister's special envoy on Africa, Mr N. Krishnan; and other senior officials.

In the meantime, the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries have approved the draft declaration to be adopted at the ninth NAM summit opening in Belgrade tomorrow. The Yugoslav government spokesman, (Goran Willick), said that a consensus was reached by the ministers after a 75-minute final session in the early hours of this morning. He said the document stressed the need for the nonaligned countries to adjust to the new situation created by greater East-West detente and the increasing role of human rights in international relations.

Over 150 leading Indians have appealed to the nonaligned countries to focus attention on the deteriorating debt problem of the developing countries at the Belgrade summit. They said the summit should recommend the convening of an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations to discuss the problem and suggest remedial measures. They were of the view that the proposed conference should consider writing off the debts owed by the developing countries and setting up a machinery under the UN to provide for transfer of resources from the developed to the developing countries on fair and equitable terms. Those who made the appeal include Mr Darbara Singh, Mr Nandini Satpathy, Mr Mohit Sen, Mr T.N. Kaul and Nehru fellow, Mr K. Subramaniam. The joint appeal was released in New Delhi today.

Statement on Summit, Bofors

BK0309092489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries have finalized the draft declaration to be adopted at the ninth NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit opening in Belgrade tomorrow. [passage omitted] The prime minister has since left New Delhi for the Yugoslav capital.

Speaking to newsmen before his departure, Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed confidence that the Belgrade summit will strengthen and give a new direction to the movement to counter pressures on the developing countries. He said that there is a need for NAM to be much more active now. Mr Gandhi said the movement is entering a new phase with the world witnessing economic groupings.

Replying to a question, the prime minister refuted the allegation that he had stalled efforts of the Defense Ministry to force the Bofors Company to reveal the names of the recipients of commission in the gun deal. He said the allegations made by the former army chief, General Sundarji, in an interview to a news magazine recently are not at all true. Mr Gandhi said he does not think the amount of pressure that was put from his office on the Bofors Company was even known to the former army chief or that he could understand it. Mr Gandhi said the Defense Ministry will answer the allegations and he does not want to get into the matter. [passage omitted]

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat To Receive Nehru Award

BK0109131589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] The PLO chairman, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, is to get the 1988 Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for international understanding. This was announced by spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi today. The decision was taken by an eight-men jury headed by the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma.

The award is given annually for outstanding contributions for the promotion of international understanding, good will, and friendship among the people of the world. It carries a citation and 15 lakh rupees convertible into foreign currency.

General Comments on Defense of Siachen Glacier

BK0209145489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1437 GMT 2 Sep 89

[By Marie-France Rouze]

[Text] Siachen Glacier, India, Sept 2 (AFP)—A ranking Indian military official has reaffirmed New Delhi's ability to use force in defending this remote, frozen territory often called the world's highest battlefield.

The Siachen Glacier is strategically located in Central Asia, far into northern India between China and Pakistan, at an elevation between 11,500 feet and 19,800 feet (3,488-6,000 meters) in the Himalayan Mountain's Karakoram Range.

Combat occasionally breaks out for control of the glacier, which dominates the area of Ladakh in India's Jammu and Kashmir State which is claimed by both India and neighboring Pakistan who have fought two wars over it since independence and partition from Britain in 1947.

Several thousand troops from both sides have been stationed here for five years.

"We have created a logistic backup, solid and in depth, therefore a continuous and indefinite stay by the Indian Army is no problem," General V.R. Raghavan told reporters.

The officers at the Army's base camp, set 11,550 feet (3,500 meters) up into the mountains at the foot of the glacier, do not hide their pride at being able to wage a one-of-a-kind war. The road leading to it, say the officers, is "the highest in the world" at 10,500 feet (3,185 meters), the same as the runway used to ferry in men, arms and provisions.

Accords signed in 1949 and in 1962 ended hostilities and established a "line of control" that runs out south of the glacier. The difficulty of the terrain and its extreme altitude precluded any fighting beyond that point.

The texts of the accords said simply that the line "beyond that ran north toward the glaciers," Gen. Raghaven said. "Our interpretation, and it is the right one, is that the line must follow the highest natural watershed, and this is the Saltoro range," he added. The Saltoro range borders the glacier's western edge.

Fighting really began in 1984, when—following several "aggressions"—India occupied the Saltoro range, which the general called "a logical extension of the line of control." After that, according to the Indian officer, Pakistan conducted specific operations in 1987 and again twice this year, without success, to occupy some points in the Saltoro. But the general said that "we (India) hold the three key passes—Sia La, Bilafond La and Chulong—and we dominate them (Pakistanis) technically."

Either to take or defend a position requires extraordinary efforts. The forward stations are perched at 21,000 feet (3,364 meters) where temperatures can drop to minus 55 degrees Celsius (minus 67 Fahrenheit).

"Taking a gun to such heights is an achievement we are proud of," Gen. Raghaven said.

The 3,000 or so soldiers, "at least a brigade," have the best equipment: Swiss duvets, Austrian boots and snowmobiles and are supplied by parachute. But they suffer sunstroke, frostbite, altitude sickness or, more seriously, pulmonary edema, a hemorrhaging caused by altitude.

"The worst is boredom," said Amitabh Khanna, a soldier from Lucknow in central India, who had just finished 140 days, the usual stint, in one of the forward posts.

"We wait for letters and choppers (helicopters). We grow weak after a month—it's difficult to walk, even, especially because everybody is vegetarian and they don't even eat eggs," he said, but added "it was a lifetime's experience."

Since Pakistan's Prime Minster Benazir Bhutto came to power there has been something of a thaw in relations between the two countries and several negotiations have taken place to try—so far in vain—to a find a solution.

Gen. Raghaven quoted a spokesman for the Defense Ministry as saying that "you have to keep the machine running," alluding to the experience and training gained from this type of operation, "but it is very hard," he added. "There should be a society for the prevention of cruelty to soldiers."

Andhra Chief Differs With Delhi on Naxalites

BK0309162889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The Andhra Pradesh ministry has been expanded with the induction of five cabinet ministers. [passage omitted]

Speaking to newsmen after the swearing-in ceremony, [the state chief minister] Mr Rama Rao said he is seeking the help of neighboring states to tackle the Naxalite [Maoist] problem. He said he is doing this since the Center has rejected his government's request for additional forces. A Home Ministry spokesman however denied the allegation. He told our correspondent in New Delhi that the Center has called for a comprehensive plan of action to fight the Naxalite menace. He said the state government has not yet sent it, and therefore, there is no question of denying or acceding to the state's request. A decision will be taken after details of the plan are known, he added.

Armed Clash With Naga Separatist Forces Noted

BK0109160589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] Security forces in Nagaland today killed a self-styled major (Ram Kating) of the underground National Socialist Council of Nagaland [NSCN] following an encounter. The encounter took place near Jessami, a post on the Nagaland-Manipur border. The underground NSCN suffered heavy casualties and fled away in disarray taking some of the wounded with them.

Security Forces on 'Red Alert'

BK0209090089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] In Manipur, security forces have been put on red alert in the wake of yesterday's attack by National Socialist Council of Nagaland [NSCN] extremists claiming nine lives in Ukhrul District. Official sources said in Imphal today that the India-Burma border in Ukhrul has been sealed to prevent underground NSCN members from crossing over to Burma. Security men are continuing search operations to track down the Naga militants.

Iran

Besharati Calls on U.S. To Release Assets

LD0409114989 Tehran IRNA in English 1132 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 4, IRNA—A senior Iranian official at the Foreign Ministry called on the U.S. to release the Iranian assets immediately without any terms or conditions.

In an interview with the English daily TEHRAN TIMES published Monday, First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said that Washington confiscated Iranian assets in violation of international laws and recognized international diplomatic norms.

The Iranian assets worth billions of dollars were confiscated by the U.S. in 1979 after the victory of the Islamic revolution. They include cash, spare parts and certain machinery for which the payment has already been made.

Besharati told the paper "right now no mediatory move between Iran and the U.S. is underway" for the normalization of Tehran- Washington relations which were severed in 1980.

Besharati was referring to a recent media report that certain countries were playing a mediatory role for the restoration of U.S.-Iran relations.

According to the paper Besharati acknowledged that the Bush administration had sent several letters to Iran addressing "the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

More on the letters he said they were received through the Swiss Embassy in Tehran which is responsible for the U.S. interest in Iran. He added that other letters have been received through countries such as Japan.

"The last letter sent by the U.S. to Iran was received 20 days ago," he said.

"In these letters the U.S. mentioned the issues including the Iran-U.S. relations and the Lebanese situation," Besharati told the paper without elaborating further.

As for Iran's answer, he said "Iran never replied to the U.S. in writing," but said that oral response was definitely given through messengers.

He said that the Bush administration has realized mistakes made by the previous administrations adding "we see the Bush administration has tried to undo many things of the past."

He added that as a sign of goodwill the U.S. Administration should denounce interference in Iran's affairs by the previous administrations and release the Iranian assets with no condition attached.

"Contrary to the Western media propaganda the Iranian demand was based on principle and not that we badly need money, or spare parts for our reconstruction plan," Besharati stressed.

He said Iran has drawn up an unprecedented reconstruction plan, adding that "the money confiscated is nothing compared to the amount we are going to spend for our development projects."

"If the U.S. stops hostility against Iran it will have its impact on the entire Muslim world," he said.

As for the issue of the hostages in Lebanon he said "yes, I believe that the hostage issue will also be solved and all the hostages may be released."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Resigns as Commander in Chief

LD0209104389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a letter to the presence of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, referring to his new responsibility and the fact that he does not have sufficient time to properly administer the affairs of the Armed Forces, resigned from his post as acting Armed Forces commander in chief.

The leader of the Islamic revolution, while expressing thanks and gratitude for Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's great efforts, agreed with his resignation from the post of Armed Forces commander in chief.

Khamene'i Accepts Resignation

LD0209114289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] In a letter to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to his new responsibility and in view of the fact that he does not have sufficient time to properly administer the affairs of the Armed Forces, resigned as acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces. In his reply, the leader of the Islamic revolution, while expressing thanks and gratitude for the great efforts of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, graciously accepted his resignation. The text of the letter of the resignation by the president and the reply of the esteemed leadership is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the blessed presence of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the illustrious leader of the Islamic revolution. In view of my new responsibility and the lack of sufficient time for the administration of the affairs of the Armed Forces, which requires ample time, and in view of possible appearance of weakness and loss in the country's military and civilian affairs, and in view of the complete expertise and familiarity of that illustrious personage [Khamene'i] with the affairs of the Armed Forces, and the possible implementation of command without any mediation, and the constructive effects which the direct contact of the forces with the commander in chief of the Armed Forces in person can have on their morale, strength, and motivation, and although the title of the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces is a source of pride and honor for me, nevertheless, in order that the affairs may be conducted correctly, I will be grateful if you agree that I may be exempt from the position and the responsibility of administering the affairs of the Armed Forces so that I can devote greater time to civilian [keshvari] affairs. I hope that, with God's assistance, I will be prepared to perform any responsibility in this regard, as in the past, if necessary.

[Signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president, 31 August 89

The text of the reply of the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces to the president's letter is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the esteemed president of Islamic Republic of Iran. With greetings and salutations, in response to Your Excellency's resignation from the post of commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, in view of the grave and very important responsibility of the Presidency and the administration of the country and the government which now, with God's grace, and as the result of the overwhelming trust of the nation, has been entrusted to your powerful hands, I announce my agreement and acceptance. I find it necessary to sincerely thank you for your trying and continuous efforts in administrating the affairs of the Armed Forces and the [Revolution Guards] Corps during the eventful period of the imposed war and the management and command of the Armed Forces, and guiding them during the war operations which were always accompanied with ceaseless efforts and on various occasions with great victories for the Iranian nation. That period is another brilliant page in the glorious record of Your Excellency's endeavors which will never be razed from the memory of our faithful nation. "There is no meritorious deed which does not remain with God." [Koranic verse] May God protect your blissful personage for the revolution and Islam and may He bestow His blessings upon you. God's greetings and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 2 September 1989

Paper Praises President's Move

LD0309081289 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 3, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Sunday described Saturday resignation of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani from his post as acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces as a positive move.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani was appointed acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces in June 1988 by the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni and was reinstalled in his post by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Under the Islamic Repubic Constitution, the leader of the Islamic revolution is also commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

"Leaving the responsibilities of the Armed Forces in the hands of Ayatollah Khamene'i does not come as a very surprising move considering the high expectations placed in President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his Cabinet to deal with problems and difficulties of the country and also on the 'no-peace, no-war' situation of the fronts," the daily said.

The editorial concluded by hailing Hashemi-Rafsanjani for leaving the task in capable hands of the leader of the Islamic Republic.

President Appoints Musavi Presidential Adviser

LD0309145889 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 3, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a letter to Hoseyn Musavi Sunday appointed him his new adviser.

Musavi served as the last prime minister of the Islamic Republic prior to the ratification of constitutional amendments which delete the post of premiership.

According to the revised Constitution, the president will also be in charge of duties of the prime minister. Musavi

was appointed prime minister in early Autumn 1981 and during his 8-year premiership he introduced three cabinets to the Majlis, receiving vote of confidence each time.

Prior to his premiership, Musavi was a member of the Revolution Council. He was also in charge of the Foreign Ministry, member of the Central Council of the Islamic Republic Party, and editor-in-chief of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper.

Born in 1941, Musavi holds a B.A. degree in architecture and urban development from former National University (present Martyr Beheshti).

In his letter, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani requested Musavi to constantly provide him with his consultative views in light of his previous services.

President Criticizes Nonaligned Movement

LD0109144689 Tehran IRNA in English 1349 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 1, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today expressed regret that the Non-Aligned Movement was unable to carry out fundamental work, despite its significance and having influential members.

"Heads of these states (NAM [Nonaligned Movement] members) or their foreign ministers could have established peace in Afghanistan, Lebanon and other places of the world and given a just response to the Iraq-Iran war," the president told a Friday prayers gathering in Tehran.

Terming NAM as "something good" in the face of the world's two superpowers, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted "We consider the conference itself blessed but do not regard its activities as sufficient.

The 9th summit of the 102-nation movement will open in Belgrade from Sept 4-7. Iran's president will not attend the summit and instead Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will be heading the Iranian delegation to the conference.

President Appoints Two New Departmental Heads

LD0409171189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Unit, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has issued an edict appointing Hasan Ghafuri-Fard as vice president and supervisor of the Physical Education Organization. The edict, while paying tribute to Ahmad Dargahi [former head of the organization] for his services, says that the importance of physical education and sport and the cultural, social, health, and political significance of sport make it necessary for everyone, particularly youth and teenagers, to be interested and committed to healthy sports activities. [passage omitted]

The Islamic president of Iran, in another edict, appointed Seyyed Mansur Razavi as vice president and secretary-general of the organization for state administrative and employment affairs.

The Presidential Foundation [as heard] informed the Central News Unit that in view of the final ratification of the administrative systems of the Presidential Foundation, the titles of the heads of the Planning and Budget organization have been changed to vice president and head of the planning and budget organization, vice president and head of the atomic energy organization, and vice president and head of the environment protection organization. Edicts to this effect have been issued.

Yazdi Introduces New Justice Minister Shushtari

LD0209131189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Mr Yazdi, the head of the judicial branch, attended ceremonies for the introduction of Mr Shushtari, the new justice minister to the personnel of the ministry. Yazdi thanked Mr Habibi, vice president and the former justice minister, for his services.

Mr Yazdi said safeguarding the independence of the judiciary was one of the main elements for the establishment of justice in the society and stressed better coordination in the activities of the judicial branch.

In these ceremonies, the vice president reiterated the necessity for better coordination and cooperation of the executive and legislative branches with the judicial branch.

The new justice minister, while praising the efforts of Mr Habibi, hoped to be able to solve the problems of that ministry by putting into practice the experience of the new colleagues.

At the end of the ceremonies Mr Yazdi presented Mr Habibi a plaque of appreciation from the personnel of the Justice Ministry.

Head of Judiciary Meets With Ahmad Khomeyni

LD0409115389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, accompanied by Messrs Moqtada'i, the chief justice, and Reyshahri, the prosecutor general, and a group of officials and heads of the judiciary, met Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni this morning.

During the meeting, Yazdi referred to the points stressed by his eminence the imam about the role of the judiciary and the Islamicization of the courts, saying: The first time I received the imam's hand-written decree appointing me a judge, it was in conection with a certain case in Esfahan. Later, I was appointed a judge in Bakhtaran Province. That same decree empowered me to operate in other cases and places. [passage omitted]

In the past, a great many cases could not be acted on or divulged and the gentlemen in the judiciary did their best; but today, we are working under new conditions. At the imam's shrine I vowed to him that I would do my best to act in accordance with the law and religious precepts.

Addressing Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, he said: Out of respect for the imam and yourself, in addition to the fact that you are his son, I and my high-ranking colleagues have come here to assure you that we shall do our best to please God Almighty and the remnant of God [Imam Mahdi] and his eminence the imam. [passage omitted]

In response, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni thanked Yazdi and the other judicial officials, saying: I am grateful to you gentlemen for coming here to reaffirm your vow to your imam to strive for his goals. This is the house of your imam. My relation with the imam is apart from that of son and father; it is like your relationship with him.

On issues relating to this gathering, I should say that the imam attached special importance to the judiciary. In addition to stressing certain points, whenever he received reports of people suffering injustice anywhere, he would point it out. And if that were not effective, he would act himself. I seriously ask you to personally deal with matters. [passage omitted]

He added: Nowadays, decisions in the judiciary are made correctly and independently. All I want from you is to pray for me. I consider myself to be with you and if there is anything I can do I will. God keep you.

Mohtashemi Said in Line for Ambassadorial Post

TA0109123189 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the (?dismissed) interior minister, will soon be sent as the Islamic Republic's ambassador to one of the Middle East countries. According to observers, Hashemi-Rafsanjani will thus be getting rid of one of his staunchest opponents.

President's Brother Confers With U.S. Envoys

TA0109121589 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] In his trip to Beirut, Mahmud [name indistinct], Hashemi-Rafsanjani's brother, met and conferred with U.S. envoys about the hostages in Lebanon.

Majlis Official Wants 'Expanded' Saudi Ties

LD0309110989 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 3, IRNA—A senior Iranian official said that Iran preferred to have cordial relations with all the countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC).

In an interview with the English daily TEHRAN TIMES published Sunday, Majlis deputy from Tehran Seyyed Raja'i Khorasani said that the PGCC as an organisation could play an effective role in warming these relations.

On cold relations of certain PGCC members with Iran, Raja'i Khorasani said that the council should take specific steps for improving these ties. The PGCC groups Kuwait, Oman, the UAE [United Arab Emirates], Bahrain, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

Foreign ministers of the PGCC in a recent meeting expressed desire for friendly relations with Iran stating Iran's stand on Saudi Arabia as one of the hurdles in this regard.

Raja'i Khorasani who is head of the Majlis Foreign Affairs Commission said Tehran's ties with Riyadh should be expanded.

The Majlis Foreign Commission could use its goodwill to bring Tehran and Riyadh closer, he said calling on the Foreign Ministry to act rapidly to bring about better relations with Saudi Arabia.

Velayati Welcomes Mediation on Ties

LD0409141489 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 4 IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati says Iran would not oppose but will "actually welcome" mediation efforts by other countries particularly members of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council to improve diplomatic ties between Tehran and Riyadh.

In an interview published in Monday's issue of KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, Velayati also said Iran had announced its position on the outstanding matters with Saudi Arabia.

Velayati, currently in Belgrade to participate in the ninth non- aligned summit meet, further said that Iran's conditions towards Saudi Arabia and particularly hajj rituals were "well defined and explicit."

But the morning daily ABRAR Monday criticized head of the Majlis Foreign Commission Seyyed Raja'i Khorasani for favoring resumption of ties with Saudi Arabia. Raja'i had called on the Foreign Ministry to make efforts in this direction.

ABRAR mentioned the Saudi massacre of over 400 hajj pilgrims mostly Iranians in 1987 while carrying out

"immunity from pagans" rallies and its decision to prevent the Iranian pilgrims from going to holy Mecca for the past two years.

ABRAR Criticizes Call for Ties

LD0409141089 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 4, IRNA—The morning daily ABRAR in its editorial Monday criticized a statement by the head of Majlis Foreign Commission favouring establishment of relations with Saudi Arabia and calling on Foreign Ministry to make efforts in this direction.

The editorial said that the Saudi massacre of over 400 pilgrims and its decision to prevent the Iranian pilgrims from going to holy Mecca for two consecutive years can not be forgotten.

"Definitely the head of the Majlis Foreign Commission has not forgotten the repeated insults on Iranian sacred values by the Saudi officials and propaganda machinery," it said.

"Such statements and desire to establish and expand relations with a country which according to late leader Imam Khomeyni by killing the pilgrims committed one of the worst crimes ever in the history of Islam, makes no sense to the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran."

The editorial said that the role of communications in the world and how a development in one country leaves great impact on others cannot be denied.

This effect can not be prevented through isolation. Keeping up with new developments is inevitable—any country while preserving its cultural, political and social infrastructure should try to make the best use of the new changes, it added. However, this does not mean endangering society's principles, said the editorial.

"As long as threats of domination exist, there is always the danger that the country moves in the direction in which it has no alternative but to accept domination," said the paper.

Big powers and superpowers work to turn the new developments to their own benefit and use it to reinforce their influence.

Understanding between superpowers must not be interpreted as a sign that they have done away with their domination-seeking nature.

The situation makes responsibility of an independent country like Iran very grave. Political relations with other countries must not create the assumption that relations are wanted at any cost—foregoing the basic principles.

The Islamic Republic of Iran since its creation has been after good relations with all countries of the world with the exception of two or three—those whose governments are inhuman and illegitimate. However, any time its basic principle of 'Neither East nor West' has been threatened, it has firmly stood against it.

Such was Iran's breaking off its relations with Britain over the Salman Rushdie affair.

Iran has made it clear that it is after good relations with all its neighbours and has recently upgraded ties with its northern neighbour on the basis of principles of the Islamic Republic, it added.

TIMES Notes Majlis Debates on Cabinet

NC0209124589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Aug 89 pp 1, 5

[Report by D. Montazeri]

[Text] Supporting his nominees President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani yesterday highlighted the services of Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and said, "A change in the (Foreign) Ministry is not in the interest of the system (of the Islamic Republic) and the country."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani was addressing an open session of the Majlis which was called to debate on the ministers proposed by him for the cabinet.

He said that the late leader of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni at times supported Velayati for his bright career as minister of foreign affairs.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "The leader (Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i) also supported Dr Velayati for the post and it is in the interest of the system and the country that there should not be a change in the ministry."

Appealing to the Majlis deputies Rafsanjani said, "Velayati deserves to receive a high number of votes."

Dr Velayati was appointed foreign minister in December 1981. Since then he has always received the highest votes. At the last vote of confidence in September 1980, Velayati snatched 225 votes, highest among his other colleagues.

We talked to various Majlis deputies of different factions and were told that there is no opposition to Dr Velayati as a person and there is no dispute about what he has done so far for the nation and revolution as minister of foreign affairs.

"Of course there is no opposition against certain officials in that ministry, Deputy Hoseyn Sobhani-Nya told the TEHRAN TIMES. He said, "Such opposition is mostly baseless."

Sobhani-Nya, however, believed that Dr Velayati will receive a high number of votes this time too.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his opening remarks said that before the finalization of the cabinet nominees he exchanged views with various personalities of the country.

He said that he sought the opinion of Ayatollah Khamene'i, with whom he exchanged views "not as leader but as former president." He said Ayatollah Khamene'i was president for two terms and he had a comprehensive knowledge about all the prospective ministers.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also discussed the formation of his cabinet with former chief justice Ayatollah 'Abdol-Karim Musavi-Ardabili and former prime minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

He said that he also discussed the cabinet issues with the existing three factions in the Majlis. Some of the members created a commotion asking to know who were those who belonged to a third faction.

It is widely known that the Majlis so far has just had two factions which are understood to be advocates of either a greater or lesser private or public sector role in the country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "There is a third faction also in the Majlis and I attended one of the meetings of this faction."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that this group claims to be independent and are not aligned with any other group.

"I picked the proposed members of the cabinet on the basis of their personal capabilities and not for their political leanings," the president said. "They are practical men and are from all factions," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

"I want to ensure that there is a balance among various groups in the Executive branch of the government," he said.

"All of the factions presented their lists of ministers of their choice," he said and pointed out that the list of the third faction was more comprehensive.

Addressing the deputies Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "one should not expect me to utilize the services of only one group. I have decided that I'll utilize the services of all, including those who were in the (previous) cabinet and those out."

"The introduction of the cabinet is not the end of my job in this particular sphere. There are other posts in various organizations and elsewhere which need to be filled and the most capable persons will be posted in these," he said.

"The way I propose to do my work will be just the same as before, when I worked in the Majlis with the cooperation of all the factions," he said referring to his tenure as Majlis speaker for nine years. Hashemi-Rafsanjani resigned from the Majlis after his presidential election on July 28. Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi chaired yesterday's Majlis sessions. Before Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke, Karrubi thanked the president and said, "We hope that the new cabinet will bring changes in our society."

Introducing the ministers Hashemi-Rafsanjani when he proposed the name for the interior minister said, "I know (Hojjat ol-Eslami 'Abdollah) Nuri for a long time. He is a realistic man, a good planner and administrator. I believe that Mr Nuri will be able to organize the Security Forces of the country in such a manner that there will be coordination among all the Security Forces."

He criticized the foreign media for the publicity against the former Interior Minister Akbar Mohtashemi and said, "Mr Mohtashemi is one of my closest friends."

He praised Mohtashemi's record as ambassador of Iran to Syria saying he had done a good job there. Mohtashemi was Iranian ambassador to Syria before he became interior minister in 1985. The Foreign Ministry was satisfied with his work. "When he came back from Syria at the end of his term I was the person who supported the idea of his being included in the cabinet," he said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "But now according to the present circumstances Mr Nuri is the best choice."

The Western media in its recent propaganda dubbed Mohtashemi "radical and hardliner." The media also repeatedly said that Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mohtashemi have differences and belong to different moulds of political thinking.

On the proposed name for minister of defense and the military logistics Akbar Torkan, he said he was head of the defense industry where he proved to be a great success.

"Naturally, I wanted this post (Ministry of Defense and Military Logistics) to be held by a person appointed from the military," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, but noted it was not possible.

He praised former defense minister Gen Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali and former IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] minister 'Ali Shamkhani and said their servies will be utilized in certain other ways.

After introducing the proposed ministers Hashemi-Rafsanjani urged the Majlis deputies to view the entire affair (cabinet formation) through me, as you (deputies) know me very well as a person who has served the country all along with you from the Majlis. "If there is no war, I believe that God willing this cabinet will be very successful indeed," Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the deputies of the Majlis with confident assurance.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, himself an 'Alim trained in the holy city of Qom, said he was aware that some deputies believed ministers should be educated in Iran, but he did not consider American university education a negative point.

At least four of his proposed ministers—for education, culture and higher education, agriculture, and economy and finance—are graduates of U.S. Universities. Four are 'Ulema.

"What I expect from you as a friend is that... you definitely observe the limits of fairness," Hashemi-Rafsanjani told his colleagues at Parliament.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that he had asked Intelligence Minister Mohammad Reyshahri to stay on in the new cabinet, but he had refused. He then was appointed prosecutor general, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said. Defending the newcomers against criticism that they lack the political background needed at this stage, the 55-year old president said: "I am as political as need be... with my presence, the cabinet would be political enough."

The debate at the 270-seat Majlis, or Parliament, was expected to last three days, ending Tuesday with a secret ballot to approve or veto each of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's candidates.

Twenty deputies are lined up to speak for or against Hashemi-Rafsanjani's 22 nominees, who included nine newcomers, mainly young, educated intellectuals.

Nine others already are serving in the outgoing cabinet, and the rest had served in previous governments after the Islamic Revolution in 1979, ending 2,500 years of monarchy.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he looked forward to "a fair, non-aligned assessment" of the proposed cabinet.

He said, "I feel very proud in front of God that I have succeeded, despite the pressures and propaganda, to... present to you what I think is in favor of the country, the revolution and Islam.

"Now, the rest is up to you," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

Guards Reportedly Break Up Tehran Protest Meeting

LD0109153489 Hamburg DPA in German 1450 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] Cologne (DPA)—In Tehran today, Iranian Revolution Guards used violence to break up a protest meeting of relatives of those imprisoned or executed. Many of the participants were arrested, according to the office of the People's Mojahedin in Cologne.

According to information from the Iranian opposition movement, paramilitary units stormed the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery in Tehran after the surviving dependents, mainly women and children, had gathered there and protested against the regime using microphones. The Revolution Guards also made use of their firearms and took away hundreds of women.

President Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

First Sermon

LD0109182589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 1 Sep 89

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 1 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] In previous sermons, a long time ago we discussed how Islam is a religion for life and a program for the life of human beings, both in this world and the next. We had a few sermons on that, and towards the end of the discussion we reached the point that one of the Islamic rules for life is that followers are asked to cultivate the earth and conquer the earth and nature, discover nature, bring it under control, and use the God-given gifts which have been provided on earth, in space, and in the sea for a better life.

This is one of the reasons that Islam is the religion which provides a program for life. This is contrary to what some think—that Islam is only for strengthening the human spirit.

Today I cannot discuss this issue in detail. I only mention some details and in future sermons I will elaborate on this issue. In the first sermon, I will talk mainly about the new cabinet's goals and the programs which are being implemented.

The Koran makes general remarks, saying that this wandering globe is under your control and it should turn under your control. It is you who decides the fate of the earth.

Fortunately, the sentence that follows—inviting people to live on Earth and use what has been provided there—shows that it has also been created for material use and at least one of the reasons for it being created are these material gifts that exist on earth.

When we have such things in the Koran, then to accuse Islam of being a religion that does not consider worldly issues is in fact far from the truth. Accusing Islamic society of not thinking about this world and only thinking about the other world and that they think more about death than life is very unjust. [passage omitted]

The view of the Koran, the view of the messenger, and the view of Islam is that a person cannot even keep his religion in poverty and backwardness; that is, on an individual basis and social basis, meaning that the poor person is always open to the danger of misbehavior because of necessity. A person going home emptyhanded to his children who are waiting for some bread, needs a lot of patience and self-control not to misbehave and not resort to wrongdoings. There are people who go to bed on an empty stomach and wait even to the end of their life, but this cannot be generalized. When a person's child is sick and he cannot obtain medicine for him, it is very

unlikely that this person will manage to keep himself under the influence of good morals. Of course, the ones who safeguard themselves are exceptional; they are unusual people. [passage omitted]

This was an introduction to my remarks for today. I merely wanted to continue on from the previous discussions so that the chain of discussion would not be broken. I will not say more than that.

I now come to the discussions that I wanted—to talk to our people about the future programs that we have in mind at the beginning of the work by the new cabinet. Fortunately, the discussion came to a point which seems to be a continuation of the same point, as it was a discussion made for this part, and even if one wanted to write a book about it, then this would have been the right place.

This is one of the reasons why I accepted an executive position. Of course, I am not alone here; the majority thinks so, too. However, from the beginning, ever since I entered the arena of political struggle and through the Islamic revolution up until now, as I continue the struggle, and through the period when I declared my candidacy, became president, formed a cabinet, and selected my ministers, one of my main objectives, one of the main motives which made me arrive here—where, with God's blessing and the guidance of his eminence the imam of ummah we have set up an Islamic society—was to make that society a model Islamic society.

In my humble view, the model Islamic society is one in which all the dimensions of Islam exist. If we built a society blessed with morals, faithfulness, contentment and patient but poor people, clumsy and unable to conquer the natural resources, then that would be a one-dimensional Islamic society. It would be Islamic in one sense, but un-Islamic in another sense.

If we built a society the opposite—endowed with welfare, knowledge, advancement, progress, and industry together with the high technology to exploit the nature, but not adhering to Islamic morality, culture, and justice—then that, too, would be a one-dimensional society. [passage omitted]

My motive in accepting an executive position in the country at this time—which I have already named as the decade of reconstruction—is to strengthen that dimension of society, the dimension which has lagged behind other dimensions of society because of enemy plots.

Of course, right here I must emphasize that if we lack the characteristics, inspirations, and objectives which are to be found in people, and which the revolution and Islam demand of an Islamic society, then our drive toward material welfare will not solve any problem. Indeed, if we do very well, ultimately after decades we will simply become like one of those European or some of the advanced Asian or American countries; that is, if we forget those principal dimensions.

If we forget the dimension of constructiveness and the ability to dominate nature, then what we can imagine is a society like, say, that of Bangladesh. They are free and good people, but you can also see the other side of their life. A tornado or a flood wrecks havoc, and they have no dam against flooding. The people are really poor.

Neither of these systems is Islamic. Islam as taught by the Koran tells us to be prepared from within and from without; that is what we are after.

During the past 10 years, we have never forgotten the material dimension, but the conditions of revolution and the war which was imposed on us as well as the mistakes which our enemies made—thinking that could soon defeat the revolution with such pressures—led to the situation in which that dimension was not to be the way we really wanted it. During these 10 years, basic measures have been taken to strengthen the foundation of such a movement.

If 10 years ago, or 7 years ago, we had intended to initiate the move which we are initiating now, it would have been difficult for us. During those 10 years we have consolidated our position in many dimensions. I give you a summarized list. We can manage the main tasks of the country by ourselves. Possibly, we may need to use the experiences of others if we want to do a better job. But the point is that we can manage by ourselves. [passage omitted]

Our managers now handle the basic infrastructural work; we have learned how to build a dam, though not to a high standard. We can build to a great extent what is needed near the railways, like wagons. We have learned the complicated task of building a metro, which only two or three countries in the world can do well.

The basis of work in our country now is good. We have sufficient number of managers; through our 10-year experience we have no management difficulty. In some respects, we may well have an inflated number of managers, through we may have shortages in other sectors.

I believe now we have foundations to live an independent life in our country. More important than that is the political pillar of independence.

In the past, meanwhile, perhaps during the time of the taghut [shah] regime, they could manage those things which I said; with or without help from the foreigners. But their main problem was that they did not have the power to make decisions. The program had to be guided by the Americans. The decision what to build, how to build, where to build had to be taken by the Westerners. The decision of what to buy had to be made by them. Therefore, the overlords used to dictate to us. And our people had to move according to the will of the Westerners.

Today such conditions do not prevail. And nobody in the world can claim the contrary. You see and you know that really the people themselves make the decisions—

through their elected representatives. We make our own decisions—to do so or not, to go that way or not. We may sometimes make an incorrect decision. But we do it by ourselves. This is the most basic foundation of the country's independence. And the next point is that our society has accepted that these decisions must be made in the framework of Islam. This is what is so important. That is, now the overwhelming majority of our society demands that only what Islam dictates must be implemented in the society—nothing else.

We now enter the field with this background. The axis of the policies of our actions will be those policies which will be chosen by our leader. Such has been stipulated in our Constitution, which is that the general policies should be chosen and promulgated by the leader, after consultation with the Council for the Discernment of What is Best. Therefore, the line of policy is given to us by the leader. The policies which have been designated by the leader constitute the guidelines for the Cabinet and the executives in the form of projects. We are on the verge of completing these, which means that we are in the process of drawing up our 5-year plan. These have been written down, giving details of how far we are planning to proceed in building roads and railways, the use of our resources in the maritime, gas, and petroleum industries, in agriculture, in telecommunications, and in all areas which must be implemented in our country in the course of the next 5 years.

The quantity of rials, foreign currency, and manpower which are to be allocated have all been stipulated in this. We must create some employment, construct some houses, create some forests, and look into what industries should have priorities. All this, however, you will hear about later in the discussions on these projects, which will be promulgated from the Majlis. Therefore, the general policies come in the form of 5-year plans.

We have 2 five-year plans in mind for the reconstruction decade. At this stage, the role of our actions—our Cabinet—is that if we decide to add new opinions to the projects which have been drawn up, we should put forward such opinions so that they may be sanctioned in the Majlis and may play an effective role in the amendments of the projects, and this is something which we began from the first day of the cabinet sessions.

So, our people should rest assured and be informed that what is to happen in the next few years, in the era of construction and reconstruction, is that which has been included in the 5-year plan, which will officially come out of the Majlis, to be included in the Cabinet programs. This is the general line of our work.

By chance, the first sentence which God caused to flow from the tongue of our leader—in a session which I and the Cabinet were graciously received by his eminence—was the same as the one which I have just said in my sermon. Neither his eminence nor I thought that this would be part of my sermon. His eminence graciously said that a society which has ideals is not one which (?forbids) seeking the welfare of its people, and a better standard of living for them. He graciously went on to add that those who think such are those who are not familar with the work of the prophets. This is a historical reality—that the work of all the divine prophets constituted that of leading people to a better life. Therefore, the aim of this 5-year plan, as designated by our leader, and its principled policy, is that we should move toward using our resources in our land, our natural environment, and in the present climate in the world, as a means of establishing an Islamic community which meets the Koranic requirements, and the wishes of the prophet. Luckily, God created this revolution in a spot which benefits from such resources.

This is another part of my speech. In our country—I have said this before in my previous sermons, and so will not delve into it in any detail—this land which is at the moment in the hands of the Islamic revolution—Iran and its borders—has been endowed with such natural resources by God that, if properly exploited, we will be able to be independent and self-sufficient and live as a prosperous and free country, in accordance with an internationally accepted progressive society. We have everything in this country. However, if there are specific things in some parts of the world, which we are deprived of, this is no problem. This is natural.

There are commercial exchanges, and exchanges of capabilities in the world. Ultimately, we are bound to have surpluses of some items which we should sell, and we are bound to be short of some items which we should buy. This is an advantage, and not a drawback. This is something created by God, so that human beings may establish contacts with each other, and not be without any needs of each other. However, progressive a country may be, it will still need to establish contacts with the outside, to hold transactions, and to breathe outside. Thus, our revolution came into fruition, in a country—and Islam took the helm in a land—where there are no shortages, unless caused by our own misconduct. If our conduct is correct, we should be able to provide all the needs of our society, from this land, sea, and atmosphere of our country. If, by any chance, we fall short of some things, then with the aid of surplus resources, with which we have been endowed by God, we will be able to obtain them from elsewhere.

Therefore, now in my speech, I do not engage in fantasies of an independent and self-sufficient society. I should also mention that this speech is not about today or tomorrow, but it is about a very lengthy process, a very long road, and there are many things without which this country will be unable to stand on its own feet. I briefly mention these limitations. For example, if we manage to import all our needs, with great foreign currency capability, into our ports, then, when it comes to transporting them from the ports to the cities and villages, we will meet a shortage of cars, railways, and roads. It is not the case that everything is always ready for any kind of work. These are things which must progress all at the same speed.

In this 5-year plan, priorities have been given to infrastructure. This means that the mother industries, the projects related to economizing in the use of foreign currency which binds us to the foreigners should be given priority. The same goes for our food, our clothing, and the primary ingredients of our basic goods. Some of these involve lengthy 5-6 year projects, such as the harnessing of the waters and the bolstering of electricity generation. To reduce the pressures of life on the people, what we need to do basically—and include in the 5-year plan—is to exploit the existing capacity of those industries in which the people have invested, and which have incurred millions of dollars of expenditure in the form of machinery and expert technicians, which could be effective in developing our foreign trade, the creation of more export facilities, and the attraction of more foreign resources by means of exports.

The second point—which is something we are short of in this period and which is now the policy of the leadership, the country, and the 5-year plan—is that there should be a greater use of people in the fields of economy, culture, and training. The people were present on the scene on an extensive scale, but there were also strata which hoarded a multitude of our country's resources in the banks or in their own safes and misused them in such a way that it has crippled our economy. We should take steps to rectify this, and so use the people and their capability. In the educational field, legislation has already been drawn up, which means that at present, the people are able to invest if they wish from the primary stages right up to university. These are the best forms of investment, since they are designed to build human beings. The Ministry of Education and Training is to encompass about 13 million children from next month. Annually, there is an increase of 1 million births, and this means an increase in the number of schools. It is not possible to leave everything in the hands of the Cabinet.

The people should definitely enter the arena. We have retired teachers who are capable of using their abilities and of entering the field of construction and management of schools throughout the country. This was approved by the Majlis. His eminence the imam issued a decree to such effect, and the Majlis passed the law. The same applies to the universities. [passage omitted]

Regarding the economy, the policy is the same. It is the policy made by the policy-making council commissioned by his eminence, the Imam to guarantee the policy—which it did—as well as being sanctioned by his eminence the imam before his demise and promulgated so as to allow greater popular participation in the management of our industries and economic centers. At the moment, the government has control of a great number of factories which were confiscated in the early days of the revolution. These, according to a correct program, will be brought under the control of the people. Instead of spending their money, in the black market, in a wrong manner which precipitates inflation and hoarding, the people should use their capital in a healthy and Islamic atmosphere. These shares will be made available in some form. Of course, the workers of these factories will be given priority. However, obviously they will not have the means to purchase all of them, and so the others will also have to enter the field. This is a guarantee that enables people to enter the constructive economic sector—meaning the industries.

Projects have been drawn up in agriculture and other sectors, and these will gradually be announced. We opened up this section in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the imam's instruction, and have so far managed to implement many of them. However, there is a condition, which is that those who enter the field should relinquish those feelings of megalomania, monopolizing, hoarding, avarice, and economic obstructionism, and lead a healthy life in an Islamic atmosphere. In this dimension, we certainly put social justice as our basis. In this dimension, we will (?forbid) exploitation and colonization. There is an Islamic way to use personal capital and capabilities for a better life and, God willing, we will include this in our projects and will announce them.

Luckily, the condition of our industries is such that they have been well preserved and are ready to become operational. The government is to assume the responsibility of providing the basic ingredients, spare parts, and tools. It can thereby reduce the pressures borne by the people in the next few years, when the fruits of these actions come into existence. In the long term, God willing, these industries when joined to the mother industries—the existing mother industries, and those which we will create—will constitute a suitable composition, which will save us to a great extent from the dependence on outside and from ensuing problems.

In conclusion of this sermon, I would like to place emphasis on the need to carry out religious tasks and the observance of piety, especially to the government officials who are using the people's money, to perform their services. One of our plans, which will be a lengthy one, is that, if any corruption is noticed in the governmental apparatus, they will become totally unpardonable. I call on you ever-on-the-scene and dear people, to cooperate with us to this end. [crowd chants in support] I ask them to bring such corruption to the attention of the officials—of course, the genuine ones—and not to exaggerate or act out of malice. We will be announcing names of centers for dealing with this issue—some centers already exist, but they will be made more active—so as to save the people from this calamity.

Second Sermon

LD0109192189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1220 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 1 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I will be brief in the second sermon because the first sermon was too long, so I will refer to a few issues of the week.

Before going any further, I wish to sincerely thank all those involved in running the country until now, during the sensitive period after the demise of the sacred personage of the imam of the ummah, and so that the country may continue the revolution in such a correct way. In the first instance, I wish to thank the experts of the nation who acted very speedily, decisively, and who correctly strengthened the foundations of the system under the most difficult conditions and most sensitive moments, by choosing the leader at the appropriate time, and choosing the most suitable person that we had in the country, after his eminence the imam, and placed the main brick of the building in its place and correctly. Truly, in the history of the revolution, we should regard that action as the most important action in view of its consequences and repercussions.

Next I wish to thank our people, who with their strange and extraordinary presence on the stage during the ceremonies of the burial, mournings, and other ceremonies in connection with his eminence the imam, demonstrated their faithfulness to the revolution in the best possible way. They caused the eyes of the world to be turned toward them; they brought joy to the hearts of the Muslim people of the world, and brought despair and despondency to the evil heart of world blasphemy. Later, the people's participation in the elections demonstrated a fact to the world, namely that the people are satisfied with their revolution, despite all the propaganda which has been made. The people came and voted for a person who had held a responsible position during all the previous periods. If there should be any reckoning of the work by officials, one of the persons who should certainly be held accountable, who from the start has been in the Revolutionary Council, in the Majlis, in the war, and in all the issues, is your servant. People with their votes—especially with free votes which were free from the pressure of propaganda, when there was no political pressure on the people, and at a time when they were mourning and were affected by grief at the demise of his eminence the imam—nevertheless did not forget their national duty. They went to the ballot boxes in such large numbers and with their very decisive vote for one of the officials of the system, they proved to the world that the people are completely sincere and faithful to their system, that they are in favor of their system, and that they accept their officials.

Side by side, I should also thank many other people, including the Maraje'. Our illustrious Maraje' and our esteemed clergy played a very good role during the past few months. Our first rank scholars, such as Grand Ayatollah Golpaygani, Araki Mar'ashi and others on that day went to the ballot boxes first thing in the morning, and films and reports were transmitted showing that they had gone to vote in the elections. That showed that from the highest levels of the clergy to the lowest level of the seminarians all of them are in the service of this system. This was very good and heartwarming support. The guidelines of our illustrious leader were very effective during that period; recently, in particular, the action of the Islamic Consultative Assembly during the past weeks—and here you showed your appreciation to them too—was a very good demonstration of coordination and unity among various groups and factions of the country and among the officials of the country. Despite all that foreign radios and foreign propaganda wish to instill in people's minds that there is a power struggle, and they wish to create anxiety in the minds of the people by saying that there are differences among Iranian officials for the sake of gaining positions.

The debates which took place in the Majlis, the high votes given by the Majlis, and the speed of action by the Majlis, all the occurrences which have taken place in that period, have been very encouraging up until we have reached the present juncture, when, thanks to God, everything is progressing in its natural course. The judiciary with completely suitable and valuable individuals, and headed by one of the best characters of this revolution and this system, and their colleagues have started their work in the place of the friends who were serving in the past. They also carried the heavy load at the time of the revolution and wartime difficulties, and maintained the special features of this Islamic judiciary. To be fair, it was a very difficult task until the formation of an Islamic judicial system in the place of that judicial system which had nothing to do with Islam. This great step was taken by them. Other organizations are also busy in their work and affairs are progressing normally.

Now we are in Government Week—at the end of Government Week. I sincerely and humbly thank the former government for its efforts. To be fair, under the most difficult conditions, these hardworking individuals successfully administered our executive system, although usually they had some serious problems. Our budget usually had up to a 50-percent deficit each year. It is very difficult for those who wish to manage the affairs to receive only 50 tumans for something which required 100 tumans. The pressure which the budget deficit placed on the people, the inflation which was created by it—and this was also transferred to the government—and the burden of the war at every moment placed a new load upon the shoulders of the government. To be fair, and if we are just, the government worked very hard, both the esteemed president, as well as the head of government, and the ministers.

Although I have repeatedly said it in the past, once again I repeat it here in the Friday prayers, that the ministers gave their places to new ministers, not because of their weaknesses, shortages, or lack of work, but because of many reasons which we arrived at during consultations regarding the formation of the cabinet. In order for this kind of cabinet to be effective, some of these gentlemen changed their trenches and they now serve somewhere else. I know for sure that those ministers, including the prime minister, his deputies, and others who are not in the new cabinet, they are among the main management and executive treasures of the country. They are not individuals who will not use their experiences in other

branches. They will certainly make use of their experiences in the appropriate places and will be in the services of the people. They will certainly not be hurt that at this juncture we have given their place to others, because their load of responsibility has become lighter and the field of service is also open to all. At the end of Government Week, as someone who is familiar with the difficulties of the former government, I express my appreciation to them, and you people have repeatedly done the same.

The other issue concerning Government Week is the anniversary of martyrs Bahonar and Raja'i and those who were with them at that meeting, such as the head of the police and some of their colleagues who were martyred. Our nation will never forget their memories. We must safeguard those people as part of our history's heritage and pride, as they were very great and valuable men. The mistake of our enemies at the time—and that mistake still persists today—was they imagined that the revolution was dependent on certain people. They still imagine the same, although the last 2 months may have witnessed a slight rectification in the mistakes of our imperialist enemies, a point which I will elaborate on later. From the very beginning of the revolution, the thought that the revolution would be defeated if it was deprived of some of its figures was present. Subsequently, all those assassinations and bomb explosions occurred, thereby depriving us of numerous resources for the revolution. However, all that produced no result.

Our people have indeed revealed extraordinary experiences in the course of this revolution. Whenever a major incident such as that occurred, or whenever a great tragedy happened for the revolution, the people became even more serious because they found that dangers were threatening them. They found that they have enemies, enemies who were vigilant and alert. Because the people were aware of all that, they gained their enthusiasm once again, entering the arena to repel the danger, after a period of time in which the currents may have stood still. [passage omitted]

In any major or minor event, people resolved the problems through their mere presence. Despite the presence of the people, the enemies were still not disappointed and set out on another crime. They had saved everything for our last arrow, namely his holiness the imam. They were sure that such a presence by the people on the scene, that proud book, was bound together by the imam. They thought that once the bond was gone, that book's pages would scatter around the scene.

With the demise of his holiness the imam, and the final test that our people passed, considering what we have witnessed during the last 2-3 months, I believe that our enemies have now modified their mode of understanding. To be fair, the interpretation that I once provided about their understanding of Iran and the Islamic revolution was no exaggeration. I said that they speak of our society in the same way that they speak about Neptune, the Moon, or the sun—that is, totally uninformed, despite all the spies they have, despite all the news broadcasts from our country and the openness of our society in which there are almost no secrets. Yet we see that they make such uninformed judgments. An example was the news about his holiness the imam's illness becoming serious; the situation had been exaggerated to such a degree that those who had fled [farari-ha] from the country and who had even no security within their own homes were about to pack their suitcases and return. This was because of the very poor understanding of colonialists about Iranian issues.

They have now, however, gradually found out that this nation is something else, where individuals have no role, where individuals are nourished by the nation. Even his holiness the imam was taken to his supreme position of leadership by the people's support, which made it possible for him to sucessfully guide the greatest revolution of the world. All those who have become a personality in this country or have an influence in this society or are famous outside have all been nourished by the people. This society is in no way a barren one. It has many individuals at its disposal which it can produce at the right opportunity. When the foundation is firm, then all other issues are irrelevant, such as that this person should be substituted by another. You know that recently the leader was changed, the judiciary power and the management of the Majlis and the executive power, together with several ministries, were changed. Many things that in their own rights were like the frame of a tent in their own tasks were all changed without any negative implications. [sentence as heard] On the contrary, the affairs are being managed a bit quicker, because the people are present on the scene.

It is really so; our nation created such epics with brotherhood and sincerity in following the leadership.

Their last judgment was on the Majlis, the cabinet's vote, and so on. The colonialists produced such things in their minds, such as hardliners, softliners, moderates, reactionaries. They write such things in their analysis, such childish things. Even up to the last word they do not recognize their mistakes. All Majlis judgments meant other things to them. But I was sure, the people in the Majlis were sure, as were the ones in charge. We know our own society. All want one thing, which is Islam; all want one thing, which is the victory of the revolution; all want one thing, which is obeying the leadership and the happiness of the nation.

One says this is the way; another says that is the way. When they reach the point when a decision has to be made, then the majority say something and then they leave following their own way. No one will choose a completely deviated way. It is possible that one person goes a little oblique and another goes more straight; this leads to the healthiest kind of confrontation of ideas in this country, and the colonialists judge the way they do. Recently they made another judgment, another mistake they made following the resolution [UN Resolution 598 on the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq]. They have

made one analysis: They say because the Islamic Republic has entered a phase of reconstruction and because the new government is the government for reconstruction, then it needs to be friendly in order to be able to reconstruct. This again is the same as their previous mistake about Salman Rushdie.

Then, an issue was raised; they thought they could do anything and the Iranians would not object. They raised the Salman Rushdie issue and tested it; they saw what happened and they are still suffering from their own mischief.

Today again, the same kind of issues are being raised. You see, today I say clearly as the president and as the person in charge of the country's executive affairs, that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not need, even one iota, to deviate from the path of the imam and the ideals of the revolution for the construction of the country. [applause, chants]

Thank you, thank you very much. Please. In the same way we do not need to chant deviating slogans to cheat our people. What has been said is what you have made—hardliner, softliner, and these kind of things. We never wanted, right from the beginning of the revolution, to interfere in international relations and to act against the norms. In order to isolate this revolution, you made those kinds of propaganda, and you yourselves believed in them, because you repeated them so much, and you yourself were influenced by them.

Here a cultural, political, and social revolution has taken place, a nation has made a revolution, and is continuing its way. This country is prepared to cooperate with countries that do not have colonialist, hegemonist, and any usurper and filthy ideas of the time of Taghut in their heads. Iran is already cooperating with a lot of countries.

Anyone who wants to take a dim view of this revolution or to believe he can take advantage of these people and to penetrate illegally in this country is not permitted in Iran—he cannot be sincere with us. We will fight tyranny until the end. We will fight crime until the end. We have been familiar with logic, from the very beginning, now and always, and we are prepared to establish relations on the basis of what is right and according to proper international relations. You should not believe that because it is time for reconstruction and that Iran needs foreign assistance therefore it will compromise. No, such a thing is not going to take place. This is what our nation wants, what our leader wants, what our government wants, and the solution is what we have announced many times.

Another issue that I want to point to is the conference of the nonaligned which is taking place in Belgrade. Of course, it is not an important issue, but unfortunately all these influential and powerful countries that gather together with all their power do not carry out any fundamental work. Today is also World Peace Day; all these countries, their heads, their foreign ministers gather together there. If they all made a unified move, they would bring peace to the world—in Afghanistan, in Lebanon, everywhere. Finish the Iran-Iraq War in a just way. Unfortunately such proper use of the conference has never been made.

The existence of such a conference against the two powerful blocs in the world is a very good idea. We honor its principles, therefore we are a member there. But we do not think their actions are enough, and we hope that the influential heads of this current meeting can do something positive for the people of the world, in particular for Lebanon, where some heartbreaking things are taking place. Lebanon has reached the stage whereby the world has to become involved and solve the problem. The people of Lebanon everyday hear an explosion, the noises of bombs, cannons, grenades in their lanes, streets, and their houses. Every day they are thirsty and hungry and live in dark huts in Lebanon because of the political greed that others have over Lebanon. This is one of the ugly outcomes of our world. Israel is guilty there, Maronites are guilty, and the supporters of the Maronites are guilty.

The main problem in Lebanon is that from the time of colonialism, they have come and shared the posts. They have said that the president has to be a Christian, the prime minister has to be from the Muslim supporters, the head of the parliament from the Shiites, and in practice they have handed the power to the Christian minority. Christians are a minority in Lebanon. Now the people question this sharing of the posts and so on; they say let us take votes and anyone who has the most should choose the parliament, like everywhere else in the world. The colonialists do not accept: The Maronites, the Western colonialists, and the Israelis and their supporters, such as the Iraqi Ba'athists and others like them do not accept this just word. They demand the same sharing of the posts on the same basis. This way the problem is not going to be resolved.

In practice, there is no government in Lebanon. Anything can happen in a country without a government. If someone is taken hostage there, there is no one responsible. If this happens in a country with a government, then the United Nations holds that government responsible. They ask why hostage-taking has occurred in your country? But in Lebanon, who should they hold responsible? Any group is its own government. Anything can take place in Lebanon. The people have no judges, no mediators, no public police, no popular army; every corner has a different ruler, no economy, no politics; this is a situation that we all see in Lebanon. The criminals who have made themselves at home in Lebanon are not prepared to give up. Hopefully, little by little, the world will come to its senses and the ones with power will become involved and help the people of Lebanon attain security. [Arabic passage omitted]

Maldives

Minister Says Indian Troops Still Needed

BK3108170489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] The Maldives Government has said that Indian troops should stay on in the island till security arrangements are strengthened. Indian troops had been rushed to the Maldives last November to put down a mercenary-aided coup attempt.

The Maldive foreign minister, Mr Fathulla Jameel, said in an interview that the small contingent of Indian soldiers remaining was essential to Maldivian security.

[Begin Jameel recording] At the moment, the number of troops who are deployed here—they are very small, and basically the need for them to stay on is because we still have in detention a number of highly trained and dangerous elements, which are quite large in number. I mean, given our own security situation, 68 of them are there. So, until we strengthen our security arrangements, we need their assistance. And, at the public level there is a very good understanding and I do not think at all there is any kind of apprehension at the government level. We also have a very good understanding about the role Indian soldiers are performing in the country. [end recording]

Pakistan

Pakistan Protests Draft of Afghan Declaration

BK0309035689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The heads of state and government have started arriving in Belgrade to participate in the summit conference of the nonaligned countries, beginning tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Pakistan has protested over the wording of the draft declaration concerning the Afghanistan issue, which proposes to declare the Najibullah regime in Kabul—set up with the support of the Soviet Union—as legitimate.

The current chairman of the movement, Zimbabwean President Mugabe, has asked the heads of state who reached Belgrade first to consider regional conflicts, arms control, peace, and economic issues, which are very significant to the underdeveloped and developing countries.

Begum Nusrat Bhutto Goes to Belgrade for Summit

BK0309133289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] The senior federal minister, Begum Nusrat Bhutto [mother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto], left Karachi for Belgrade today to lead the Pakistan delegation at the summit conference of the nonaligned countries opening there tomorrow.

'Extemist' Threat Prompts Security for Bhutto

BK0209110689 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Aug 89 p 1, 8

[By Raja Zulfikar]

[Text] Islamabad, August 24—A tightening up of security around Prime Minister Bhutto has been ordered, well-informed sources told 'THE MUSLIM' on Thursday [24 August].

Top security officials are understood to have stressed new precautionary measures at the prime minister's [PM's] residence as well as her Secretariat. These security officials have recommended that more people be detailed at the prime minister's residence and House. Moreover, these officers are to be equipped with sophisticated weapons.

This new step, according to sources, is a response to a telex message from the Pakistan Embassy in a Middle Eastern country to authorities in the federal capital.

The message was conveyed to Islamabad some time ago and it indicates that an extremist group may try to target the prime minister of Pakistan. Reports available say the Pakistan Embassy abroad was informed by a lady, whose identity could not be ascertained. She reportedly slipped the information through the door of the embassy.

Immediately, the Pakistani officials sent a telex message to Islamabad asking security authorities to adopt extra measures near the residence and office of the prime minister.

The Pakistan Embassy officials are reported to have tried to contact the lady who gave the information. However, they could not get in touch with her until early this week.

The Interior Ministry, meanwhile, informed the concerned authorities all over the country, urging them to be on the alert.

The Home Secretaries and Inspectors General of Police of the four provinces are reported to have received a copy of the telex message as well as directives by the superior authorities.

In addition, the Inspector General of Police in Islamabad and AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] have also been informed.

It is noteworthy that some days back a red Pajero Jeep entered the PM's House unchecked. The three occupants of the vehicle had to rush back after the cook and maid servant of Ms Bhutto raised the alarm.

After this incident, many changes have been brought about in the security of the prime minister. However, sources do not link this incident with the telex warning.

Ziaul Haq's Son To Challenge Benazir Bhutto

BK0309102089 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Aug 89 p 1, 6

[Text] Dubai, Aug 25—Ejazul Haq, son of the late Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, has decided to confront Benazir Bhutto's government head-on, and challenge her in the next elections which he feels will be held prematurely, early next year.

"The present political structure in Pakistan will not survive for long," Mr Haq told The KHALEEJ TIMES in an interview in Dubai. "Benazir Bhutto will go in for mid-term elections in January 1990."

According to Mr Haq, there will be two forces contesting the mid-term elections: a pro-Zulfiqar Bhutto force, represented by daughter Benazir, and pro-Zia force, represented by son Ejaz.

Asked whether he would contest the elections, Mr Haq asserted he would. As for his aspirations about becoming the prime minister, the former president's son remarked: "I have ambitions. Whoever is in politics, has ambitions."

"When the right time comes, I'll have a clear-cut understanding with Nawaz Sharif" (the Punjab chief minister, who is the main opposition leader in Pakistan), explained Mr Haq, who is now part of the opposition, Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA).

The Pakistani politician is on a short visit to Dubai "to meet friends." Though he is the vice-president and regional manager of Bank of America in Bahrain, Mr Haq has decided to devote most of his time to know politics. "I'll work with the bank on a consultancy basis," said Mr Haq.

Explaining the reasons for his new-found political activism, Mr Haq said that the first anniversary of his father's death, which was observed on August 17, made him realise the enormous popularity still enjoyed by General Zia in Pakistan.

"More than a million people—representing different communities—gathered at the Shah Faisal Mosque in Islamabad despite all efforts by the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] government to block them from reaching there," said Mr Haq.

According to him, in an unprecedented show of support, businesses all over Sind—in Karachi, Hyderabad and even in Bhutto's Larkana constituency—pulled down their shutters as a mark of respect to his father.

"It was clear that the PPP had lost its mandate," remarked Mr Haq. "Yes, I would like to ride on the crest of this popularity wave," he replied when asked about his plans.

Describing the Bhutto government as a minority one, Mr Haq criticised her for her "politics of revenge." She had arrested an editor, an army general and an air marshal, all on false charges.

Mr Haq charged her of inaction in vital areas of governance as well. Since the PPP government came to power nine months ago not a single legislation had been passed in the National Assembly. Inflation was very high and the government had no firm economic policy.

There was violence in Sind and other parts of the country, but instead of curbing it, the PPP government was engaged in a fight with the Punjab government, said the former president's son.

Does he think the army will interfere, as it did in 1977, when his father came to power in a military coup? "If things worsen, the people might force the army to take over," warned Mr Haq.

While he was opposed to martial law—"It's not healthy, we'll avoid it"—he defended his father's action of 1977, because the situation required such an imposition.

Asked about the inquiry into his father's death, Mr Haq said he had gathered conclusive evidence regarding the plot to kill his father. He had given the details to the government as well, but it was suppressing the evidence, perhaps because of its involvement.

Mr Haq charged the Al-Zulfiqar terrorist outfit of being involved in the death of his father. "They had tried to kill him on five earlier occasions."

If voted to power, what would be his attitude towards India? My policies would be similar to that of my father's, said Mr Haq. "We would like to have an extremely good relationship with India, but as a sovereign state."

According to him, the people of Pakistan forced Benazir Bhutto to give up her pro-India approach. "Rajiv Gandhi visited Pakistan twice, but he could not sign a single agreement, because of the pressure from the people of Pakistan," he said.

Comparing his situation with that of Benazir's, after her father's death, Mr Haq said that she had run away from the country, while he returned from abroad to fight the government.

But wasn't that because the Bhutto family was being harassed by a military dictatorship, while he had returned to work in the opposition in a democracy? "I'm being harassed. They've cancelled all our privileges—even my mother's pension has been withdrawn. They are serving income tax notices on me," retorted Mr Haq.

Pakistan, U.S. Criticize Moscow's Afghan Policy

BK0109112889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1108 GMT 1 Sep 89

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 1 (AFP)—The United States and Pakistan, main backers of the Afghan guerrillas, have stepped up their criticism of Moscow, accusing the Soviets of continuing to support a "weak and unpopular regime" in Kabul.

The two allies both say they are committed to continuing their aid to the mujahidin six months after the Soviet troop withdrawal, despite widespread infighting within the resistance.

Peter Tomsen, special U.S. envoy to the Afghan resistance, said Thursday that Moscow had sent "over 300 military advisors" to "supervise" rocket attacks by government forces south of the capital using Soviet-made Scud missiles.

Mr Tomsen, completing his second trip to Pakistan, also said that by supplying Kabul forces with seven million U.S. dollars worth of sophisticated arms a day, the Soviets were causing "massive destruction" in Afghanistan.

"These weapons are much more lethal than the (rebel) rockets that missed the military targets in the Kabul area," he added, an apparent reference to a Tuesday mujahidin attack on the capital airport that inflicted no casualties.

The U.S. diplomat said Kabul forces fired some 250 surface-to-surface Scuds, each packing more than 700 kilograms (1,500 pounds) of explosives, in July alone, in addition to carpet bombing that had hit the "civilian population."

Iqbal Akhund, foreign affairs and security advisor to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, asked: "Is it good for the Soviet Union to have this instability on their southern border?"

"They (the Soviets) think maybe that if they stand firm, they will have control on a client state. ... Once again they are making a mistake," Mr Akhund said.

The United States and Pakistan are the main supporters, along with Saudi Arabia, of the Pakistan-based Sunni Muslim guerrillas who, after nine years of battling the Soviet occupation, now refuse any compromise with President Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Since February 15, when the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan, the mujahidin have been unable to coordinate their military campaigns and have so far failed to capture a single large city, although they control a sizable amount of countryside.

Mr Tomsen said he was however "confident" that the guerrillas would soon prevail, especially in southern Khowst city and Zabul Province.

But both Washington and Islamabad are increasingly concerned about deepening conflict within the resistance.

They are especially worried over the rivalry that has arisen in recent weeks between the forces of the radical fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and those of the relatively moderate Ahmad Shah Massoud, a commander of the Jamiat-e Eslami faction.

Mr Hekmatyar said this week he would boycott "until further notice" any political meetings of the mujahidin to protest a "campaign of denigration" he said is being waged by his rivals.

Mr Tomsen said the divisions were discouraging at a time when "resistance unity and cooperation is of paramount importance."

Mr Akhund too said he was "very disappointed" but added that such rivalry had to be accepted as a "feature of the Afghan society."

The mujahidin interim government, which was formed on February 22 by the seven-party Pakistan-based alliance, is now like a "shaky ladder" which must "broaden its base" to survive, Mr Akhund said.

The lack of participation by the Shiite Muslim mujahidin based in Iran was also "of concern" to Washington, Mr Tomsen said, calling for the Pakistan-based mujahidin to "speed up negotiations" with their pro-Teheran counterparts.

Despite the growing complexity of the Afghan conflict, Washington has decided to continue military aid to the Afghan resistance, Mr Tomsen said, in order to ensure that the flow of arms will not halt even when inclement weather brings the current fighting season to an end in November.

Information Minister Interviewed on Soviet Visit

BK0209112689 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Aug 89 p 1, 6

[By Shah Nawaz]

[Text] Moscow, Aug 26—Javed Jabbar [JJ], State Minister for Information and Broadcasting, has said that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is trying to restore some balance in Pakistan's relations with the two superpowers.

Referring to the Afghan issue Mr Jabbar said, the Soviets would like to resolve it in accordance with the Geneva Accords.

Mr Jabbar was talking to Shah Nawaz, 'THE MUSLIM' correspondent in Moscow. Here are the excerpts of Mr Jabbar's interview:

Shah Nawaz [SN]: What was the purpose of your visit to the Soviet Union?

Javed Jabbar [JJ]: I came here at the invitation of Soviet Government. My hosts were the TASS, as they do not have a single Ministry of Information. Since December 1988 this is for the first time that a member of the central cabinet of Pakistan visited the Soviet Union and held bilateral talks. The scope of my visit was to look at the present state of Soviet-Pakistani relations in information and media. Additionally, as this was the first visit of a member of the Pakistani cabinet in nine months, they invited me to the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Foreign Affairs Ministry. This gave me an opportunity to listen to their views, and also present our viewpoint on developing ties between us in different areas, including the political and economic ties. At the Foreign Ministry, during my talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Komplektov, who was involved in the preparations of Geneva Accords on Afghanistan, the Soviet side presented their viewpoint on Afghanistan, and I noted that with considerable interest, which I am going to bring to the notice of the Prime Minister. It was indeed a very useful visit. The Soviet hosts were very cordial.

SN: The Soviets say the main hurdle in the development of relations between the Soviet Union and Pakistan is our attitude to the Afghan issue. Seen in this context, what is future of the Soviet-Pakistani relations in the economic field?

JJ: These two things are not connected with each other. Mr Komplektov presented his government's view on the Afghan issue and reiterated the Soviet interest in a peaceful settlement, and is looking forward to reciprocal initiatives from all the concerned sides. It was very useful and very interesting to know the Soviet view at this stage. After February 1989, when Mr Shevardnadze visited Pakistan, mine is the first major ministerial level visit. I will convey their proposals, and I hope that some positive outlook will emerge in the coming months. We are not siding with this or that group of Afghan mujahidin, we are not interested in promoting this or that group. We only want to promote a political settlement of the Afghan situation. We are in favour of the Afghan people deciding their own destiny, we want a government in Afghanistan which is acceptable to all shades of Afghan opinion. We don't want to impose any settlement, nor do we have any right to do so.

SN: Do you see any change in the Soviet perceptions of Pakistan?

JJ: There seems to be an appreciation on the Soviet side of the democratic and representative nature of the Pakistani Government. They are certainly conscious of that. The invitation that I have just used is perhaps a reflection of their attitude towards the democratic government, because, I am sure, they are aware that this government has the mandate from the people. There is a fundamental difference between a dictatorial government and a democratic government.

SN: Is there any possibility of Ms Benazir Bhutto visiting the Soviet Union in the near future?

JJ: At the moment it is not possible to give any exact date, but at the mutually convenient time the dates will be determined. The invitation is already there.

SN: The Soviet media say that it is not the Pakistani Government but the Pakistani military which is involved in the war in Afghanistan. What's your comment?

JJ: I will only like to stress that an elected political government is in office in Pakistan. Chief executive of the government is the prime minister, and the armed forces have played a historical and constitutional role in endorsing and supporting in the transition from the situation of August 1988 to December 1988. I think according to the Constitution they accept their role in the structure and the government of the country and, therefore, I would not agree to the view that anyone other than the cheif executive of the government, i.e., PM [Prime Minister] is in charge in respect of the policy. The responsibility is with the Federal Government, the cabinet, and the PM is the head of that government.

SN: An Indian newspaper PATRIOT which is regarded as pro-Soviet recently said that the Soviet Union does not look at South Asia through the Indian eyes anymore. What is your comment?

JJ: I would not like to respond on something that is said by an Indian newspaper on their relations with the Soviet Union. I am concerned about the relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. I have found the attitude of the hosts, i.e., the Soviet Government extremely cordial and friendly with a desire to tackle the problem of Afghanistan in a constructive spirit. Given the same continuity, I am sure, our government will also reciprocate in the spirit of cooperation, which was already manifest in the Geneva Accords. So already there is basis for political cooperation, which has been established. In addition to political cooperation, there is a vast area of economic cooperation in which the two countries have worked together. I am confident **Insha Allah**[God willing] a positive outcome will prevail.

SN: There is an impression in the Soviet Union that Ms Benazir Bhutto would like to strike a balance between the US and the USSR.

JJ: Pakistan is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the basis of our foreign policy is a very clear cut endorsement of the concept of non-alignment. That itself means that you have to strengthen the concept of balanced relations with the major countries, USA and USSR, and I am confident that our PM will lead the country in such a manner, which she is already doing, that the necessary balance is maintained.

SN: What are the possibilities of developing the relations between the two countries in the field of information and culture?

JJ: In information there have been some previous agreements. But there was a need to review them and also to see where some improvement could be made. Those agreements cover exchange of TV, radio and print media representatives. Editors of two leading dailies DAWN and JANG will be visiting the Soviet Union in September and in turn I have invited TASS Director General and IZVESTIYA Editor to visit Pakistan.

SN: Are you satisfied with your visit?

JJ: Yes, very much.

SAARC Ministerial Meeting Scheduled for Nov

BK0309154589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] The ministerial conference of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], which could not be held in July in Islamabad, is expected to be held in the 1st week of November in the Pakistani capital. A Pakistani delegation spokesman told newsmen in Belgrade today that the foreign ministers of the organization reached an agreement on this meeting during an informal discussion held at a luncheon hosted in their honor by Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub in the Yugoslav capital.

Earlier, the ministerial conference was postponed following Sri Lankan refusal to take part in the conference in the wake of its dispute with India over the withdrawal of the Indian troops from the island nation. The spokesman added that Sri Lanka has expressed its readiness to participate in the November conference, which reflects Colombo's commitment to the objectives of the SAARC.

The spokesman further said that the SAARC foreign ministers have endorsed the appointment of the new secretary general of the organization. India's Bhargava will be the new secretary general who will replace Bangladesh's Abul Ahsan.

Spokesman Raps IJI Leader on Nuclear Plant

BK0409164289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] A spokesman of the Defense Ministry has taken strong exception to the press statement issued by a leader of the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ettehad—Islamic Democratic Alliance] parliamentary party in the National Assembly, Chaudhry Shajat Hussain, claiming that the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] had conspired with India to launch a mock attack on Kahuta [Nuclear] plant.

He said this [word indistinct] statement is outrageous and a figment of the imagination of the IJI leader. The IJI leaders, bereft of real issues, are now desperately fabricating malicious stories against an elected representative government even at the cost of compromising national security. The IJI leader did not disclose the source of his information, as none exists. He has levelled the false and malicious allegation without caring for its implications. The spokesman said that under the elected government all steps have been taken for protection of our vital installations.

President Visits Joint Staff, Gets Briefing

BK0409142089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan visited the joint staff headquarters in Rawalpindi today where he was received by Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey and chiefs of the three services. Later, the president, who is also the supreme commander of the armed forces, attended a briefing on the country's security situation and making the armed forces more effective.

Marshal Says Air Force Ready To Defend Nation

BK0309134589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] An investiture ceremony was held at the air headquarters in Rawalpindi today to award Tamgha-i-Khidmat [service medals] to the Air Force personnel for their outstanding performance.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah, said the Air Force remained ever ready to respond to any call by the nation to defend territorial integrity or to render assistance to civil population in (?hard) times.

French Team To Train Afghans To Defuse Mines

BK0109105789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] A French team, which will train Afghan refugees in defusing mines in their country, has arrived in Islamabad. Today, the mission, which is a part of a UN-sponsored program, Operation Salam, will go to Peshawar where Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand teams are already working. On their return to Afghanistan, the refugees—now living in Pakistan—will face danger from millions of mines planted in their country since the Afghan conflict started over 10 years ago.

Two French Naval Ships Call at Karachi Port

BK0409090389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Two French naval ships have arrived at Karachi port on a weeklong friendly call. A short while after reaching Karachi yesterday, the commanding officers of the ships met with the Pakistani naval commander, Logistics, Rear Admiral (R.D. Qadri), and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest.

Air Search for Missing Plane Called Off 3 Sep

BK0309162289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] The air search operations for the Pakistan International Airlines' [PIA] Fokker plane which had disappeared on 25 August just 7 minutes after its takeoff from Gilgit have been completed. Today, a 5-hour sortie covered about 100 square miles in the northern areas to locate the missing plane. The weather was perfectly clear today, allowing a free and thorough search, but all efforts proved futile. A PIA spokesman told the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN that the entire flight route of the Fokker plane—from Gilgit to Islamabad—has been extensively searched, but there is no clue to the missing plane. The search operation has been called off, but a Fokker plane will remain under the disposal of the authorities to resume the search on receiving any positive clue from the ground search parties which are continuing their efforts. The spokesman added that the PIA and other concerned agencies fully realize the miseries and agony of the kith and kin of the Fokker aircraft's passengers and the crew and will always remain on alert to resume the search operations whenever and wherever needed.

Bill Drafted To Detain Drug Traffickers

BK0209051689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] The government has formulated the draft of a bill that will be presented at the next session of the National Assembly. Under it, the law enforcement authorities will be allowed to detain [accused] drug traffickers up to 90 days, and the detention period may be extended up to 2 years.

In an interview, Minister of State for Narcotics Control Muzaffar Shah said that the new law will strengthen the organizations working against narcotics smuggling. He said that there has been a considerable decrease in drug trafficking as a result of the activities of the Narcotics Control Division and the effective steps taken by the present government during the last 8 months.

Sri Lanka

Demand for IPKF Withdrawal Sparks Violence

Premier on 'Terror Campaign'

BK0209042089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan prime minister, Mr Wijetunge, has said that the present terror campaign by extremists demanding immediate withdrawal of the [Indian] PKF [Peacekeeping Force] is actually a bid to topple the government. In a nationally-televised address to his countrymen, Mr Wijetunge said killing of innocent civilians and members of security forces and their families would not help in expediting the PKF's withdrawal. He said that certain forces are behind a diabolical conspiracy of the extremists to overthrow a democratically-elected government with violence. Mr Wijetunge said the people of his country cannot allow a legally-elected government to be overthrown by a small, power-hungry group of terrorists.

Meanwhile, agency reports say that at least 70 persons were killed in militant-related violence in different parts of Sri Lanka outside the northeast region till yesterday evening. Twenty bodies were found in different places in Kandy District, and 25 bodies were recovered from Medawachchiya in Anuradhapura District. Elsewhere in the island, 19 civilians were killed by suspected JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] men in separate incidents. Security forces shot dead five JVP militants in continuing operations.

Strike Enters Final Day

BK0109160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 25 persons were killed in continuing violence across the country during the past 24 hours. A government statement in Colombo said that 19 civilians and 5 subversives were among the victims. It said 50 JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] activists surrendered to security forces in the north-central district.

Meanwhile, work in banks and most government institutions remained crippled today as the JVP-called strike entered its 5th and last day.

13 Killed as Violence Continues

BK0309160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] Agency reports from Sri Lanka say 13 people were killed today in continuing violence. They include the newly-wed wife of the chief inspector of police and her mother and sister. They died when the car they were traveling in hit a landmine in (Minminya) in the southern part of the country. Ten others have been killed in clashes between rebels and the security forces in south and central Sri Lanka.

A batch of 700 PKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] soldiers sailed for home from Trincomalee today. They were seen off at the harbor by Lieutenant General Kalkat and senior military and civil officials of the Sri Lankan Government.

7 Killed; Security on Alert

BK0409162589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, seven persons were killed in the continuing violence even the shops, banks and offices opened today after a week-long antigovernment strike called by Sinhalese militants. Security forces remained

on a red alert. Suspected JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] militants stormed a military camp and two police stations in central Sri Lanka. They were repulsed by the security forces who killed two attackers and captured one. Radicals also detonated explosives as military vehicles passed, injuring one soldier. Elsewhere, a Sinhalese man was killed by two unidentified gunmen and police found four bodies in Menikhinna town in Kandy District.

AFP Notes Continuing Violence

BK0209140489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1356 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Colombo, Sept 2 (AFP)—Sinhalese rebels ambushed an army patrol in southern Sri Lanka Saturday killing five soldiers and a civilian as 53 others died in unabated violence across the strife-torn island, officials and residents said.

The five soldiers and the civilian were killed when rebels of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) blew up an army vehicle at Kumburupittiya in Matara District, residents, contacted by telephone, said. There was no official confirmation of the incident.

The latest reports of violence came hours after Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge charged "a few small fascist terrorist disruptors" for the violence and despite appeals by religious heads and organisations for a halt to the unending strife.

In another incident military officials said four soldiers were wounded when suspected JVP rebels hurled bombs at their vehicle in Malabe, 15 kilometres (nine miles) east of Colombo.

A government statement Saturday said security forces recovered 21 bodies, with bullet or stab wounds, from different parts of the island during the last 24 hours.

Security officials said 15 of the bodies were found in three places in central Kandy District.

The statement said subversives, the official term for JVP rebels, killed seven people including a woman and two village officials in northwestern Gamapaha District and a security officer from the state-run bank and his wife in southern Morawaka town.

Thirty-two bodies were found in the Medawachchiya area of north-central Anuradhapura District Friday in what appeared to be retaliation for the killing of a senior police official of the area Thursday, residents said.

The residents, contacted by telephone, blamed police and security forces for the killings.

Military officials here confirmed the incident, but said details were not known.

They said the rebels derailed an oil train at Moragollagama in the same district, but there were no casualties.

The statement said security forces had taken into custody 311 suspected rebels, 129 of them in northwestern Puttalam District during continuing cordon and search operations.

Appearing on state televison late Friday, the prime minister made an indirect reference to allegations of reprisal killings by troops and said they were only trying to protect the people.

"Isn't it unrealistic to think that the armed forces and the police will remain silent when they and their families are being murdered?" he asked.

Meanwhile the head priest of the influential Asgiriya Chapter of the island's 30,000-strong Buddhist clergy Friday added his voice to appeals by religious leaders and organisations for a halt to the unending violence.

"It is the responsibility of the national leaders to call an immediate halt to the armed conflict and create an atmosphere where the people could live free of fear and apprehension," the prelate, Dharmakeerthi Sri Gunaratna Palipane Chandananda Thero, said in a statement published here Saturday.

"The rulers as well as those who aspire to rule" should realise that they cannot win popular support by making people suffer and throwing public life into disarray through strikes and subversive activities, he added.

Other Buddhist leaders had made similar appeals.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka issued a statement Thursday calling on all parties to the conflict on the island to cease all violence "in the name of God and our motherland" and seek dialogue and reconciliation.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's main Tamil separatist group claimed Friday that its guerrillas killed five Indian para-commandos in an attack on an Indian military convoy at Mavaddapuram in the northern Jaffna peninsula Thursday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement issued in London and released here that one Indian military jeep was completely destroyed in the fighting, in which a rebel leader, Captain Nedumaran, was also killed.

A spokesman for the Indian High Commission (Embassy) here confirmed the incident Saturday, but said details were not available.

India has deployed some 43,000 troops in the island's Tamil-populated north and east under a July 1987 peace agreement between New Delhi and Colombo which sought to end Tamil separatism in the island.

5 Sep Situation Noted

BK0509052289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0517 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] Colombo, Sept 5 (AFP)—Civil servants in Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated northeast have been asked not to take directions from Indian troops deployed in the region, local press reports said Tuesday [5 September].

The government has asked top officials to report on violations of local immigration and customs laws by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) and not to allow it to interfere with the civil administration in the area.

Government agents, the top administrators in districts, "should bring these matters to the notice of the defence secretary, so that each individual case can be reported in detail to the Indian authorities through the foreign secretary," newspapers quoted a government circular to officials.

They said Colombo had recently complained to the Indian High Commission (embassy) here that despite previous protests, Indian correspondents continue to be flown to the north of the island without visas.

New Delhi has some 42,000 troops in Sri Lanka's northeast in line with a 1987 bilateral peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campign.

Talks are on between the two South Asian neighbours to withdraw the IPKF after a diplomatic row over the issue.

No 'Outside Force' To Replace IPKF

BK0109045489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, has decided to convene an all-party meeting in a bid for national reconciliation, peace, and normalcy. Briefing newsmen after a cabinet meeting in Colombo today, the industries minister, Mr Ranil Wickremasinghe, said the meeting is open to all parties, including the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front]. Mr Wickremasinghe said that the opposition's suggestion of an all-party provisional government could also be discussed.

Referring to the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] withdrawal, the minister said that Colombo was awaiting India's response to Sri Lanka's revised proposals. At the same time, the senior official said that there is no question of any outside force replacing the IPKF when they withdraw from the northeastern provinces.

These announcements came as normal life continued to be crippled for the 4th day as a result of a week-long JVP-sponsored strike.

President Issues Call for All Party Conference

BK0509145389 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] In a speech to the parliamentary group meeting today, President Premadasa said it is our paramount duty to bring into the democratic process all parties and groups that have fought the path of militancy; acts of violence should be renounced; peace, discipline, and prosperity should be restored; and a collective effort should be made by all parties and groups to achieve this.

The proposals he made on 8 August 1989 for an all party peace appeal was endorsed by the government parliamentary group. He said he was grateful to the parties and groups that issued that peace appeal.

President Premadasa said that the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP—People's Liberation Front] took an active role in the democratic process after the government lifted the ban on this party in 1977. But when the ban was reinforced the JVP decided to go underground in 1983. On 8 December 1983 a letter was sent to the president by the JVP leader, Rohana Wijeweera, drawing the president's attention to five points. Among them were: [words indistinct] falsification against the JVP.

President Premadasa said the letter was an eye-opener to him and because of these reasons from the very inception, he wanted a ban on the JVP lifted.

The president went on to say that it is the duty of everyone to take steps to free the country and people from the terror that has now engulfed us. Today the attention of all should be directed toward the achievement of peace and the abhorrence of violence. What is essential is to bring in all the groups that still remain outside the democratic process within its fold. Our country today is facing a national crisis. It is a crisis which has shaken the very foundations of democracy and human rights and is threatening to destroy them. No sacrifice would be too big for the democratic parties to make for the resolution of this crisis in order to save the democratic way of life which we all cherish. It is with an open mind and unprejudiced approach that we must find a solution.

Let us first understand the causes underlying the crisis. It is necessary that we should consult at least the [words indistinct]. It is difficult to find a solution while holding on tenaciously to our prejudices and preconceived notions. It is always more fruitful to diagnose the root cause of the disease and treat it effectively rather than do a patchwork job on identification of symptoms.

The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is already engaged in talks with the government to establish peace in the north and the east.

The president went on to say that Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna participated at 80 elections and there were occasions when some of their candidates won. The

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna voiced their protests at the manner in which the referendum was conducted. The protest was [word indistinct] by having recourse to court. In this manner the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna confirmed their acceptance of the democratic process. Therefore, he said, the JVP must be persuaded to negotiate and once talks begin, the government will be able to find out what obstacles there are still in the way of the JVP entering the democratic process.

In conclusion, the president said that at this juncture we all must appreciate one important factor—that is the militants have arms in their hands. Representatives of the people of all political parties have also secured their (?political) security. But the ordinary innocent persons of the country have also protection provided by the armed forces and the police. As long as violence and subversive activities continue, the armed forces and the police will perform their duty to protect the people.

The government parliamentary group at its monthly meeting today passed a resolution moved by the minister of justice and parliamentary affairs, Vincent Perera. The group welcomes the summoning of an all party conference and stresses the need to do everything possible to bring all those forces outside the democratic process into the political mainstream. This motion was seconded by A.R.M. Abdul Kadar, MP of the Kandy District.

Opposition Parties Demand Provisional Government

BK3009117789 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Five major opposition parties in Sri Lanka have said their proposal regarding the setting up of a provisional government should be discussed before holding the proposed all-party conference. The five parties have sought a meeting with the Sri Lanka president, Mr Premadasa.

The parties are the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, the left-wing United Socialist Alliance, and Mahajana Eksath Peramuna. These five parties have written a letter to Mr Premadasa after discussing the subjects among themselves. The leaders said their attending the proposed all-party conference on the 13th of this month will depend on the president's response. The opposition parties in Sri Lanka have been demanding the setting up of a provisional government and the holding of fresh parliamentary elections. They also want changes in the country's constitution to reshape the present executive presidency to the parliamentary form of government.

Reports of fresh incidents of violence continue to come in from the island nation as the country is limping back to normalcy after a week-long strike called by the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front]. Last night, JVP extremists attacked three police stations and two security posts in central Kandy District. The attack was launched simultaneously at all these places. Two JVP members were killed and four others arrested during one of the attacks. One soldier was wounded in the encounter. Elsewhere in the country, JVP extremists attacked at least four police stations in rural areas.

Security sources in Colombo said 21 people have been killed in other incidents in different parts of the island. Thirteen of them were civilians and others JVP men. Six other bullet-ridden bodies were also found last night.

Meanwhile, a batch of 700 IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] soldiers arrived in Madras today after completing 1 and ½ years in Sri Lanka. They were received at the Madras Port by Brigadier N.K.Kapur of the Indian Peacekeeping Force. The unit assisted in the conduct of elections for the Northeast Provincial Council and subsequently the presidential and parliamentary elections in the island country.

Parties Appeal for Peace

BK0209113089 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Sep 89

[Text] Five political parties of the opposition in Parliament appealed for peace and called upon all groups to reject the use of violence as a method of conflict resolution. The five parties are the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the United Socialist Alliance, the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, and the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna.

A joint statement issued by the five parties says that they depend on democratic institutions and the free will of a sovereign people to achieve their political goals. The statement adds that fear stalks every home and peace is the thing of the past. The economy is plummeting rapidly and the prices of essentials are rocketing up. The executive presidential system and the president have totally failed to prevent disarray in public life. Despair, gloom, and fear pervade the entire country. The slaughter, disappearances, and arrests of citizens, and the escalation of crime have become a way of life. The joint statement adds that the paralyzing of the hospitals was provoked by the government's mishandling of an issue.

Colombo Confirms 13 Sep 'All-Party Conference'

BK3009114989 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] The All-Party Conference [APC] is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, September the 13th, at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Colombo, secretary to the President K.H.J. Wijedasa disclosed yesterday. He said the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, JVP, would also be invited for the deliberations. Formal invitations to the political parties would be sent over the weekend. The invitation to the JVP, which is also a recognized political group, will be sent to its registered party office in Colombo, Mr Wijedasa said.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, SLFP, said that a final decision on the APC issue would be taken after a formal invitation was received. It is learned that a meeting of five joint opposition groups comprising the SLFP, the MEP, the LSSP, the SLMC and the NLSSP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress and the Nava Lanka Sama Samaja Party] scheduled to be held last Friday [1 September] to discuss the APC proposal was postponed until today as some party members had informed. They were unable to attend the meeting due to earlier commitments.

India Told To Stop Shipment to Trincomalee

BK0309111089 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 3 Sep 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign mission in New Delhi has requested the Indian Government to stop a planned shipment of a consignment of goods, vehicles and machinery to Trincomalee port this week, according to official sources in Colombo. This follows reports from New Delhi received by the Foreign Ministry that the Indian government was preparing to make direct shipments from an Indian port to Trincomalee without informing the central government. The Finance Ministry has meanwhile ordered the provincial councils not to have direct dealings with any foreign country or organizations on matters pertaining to trade and commerce.

Tamil Rebels Seek Support Against India

BK0409105889 Hong Kong AFP in English
1052 GMT 4 Sep 89

[Text] Colombo, Sept 4 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerrillas Monday urged non-aligned countries to pressure New Delhi to halt military action against them and withdraw troops from the island republic.

The leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in a letter addressed to the chairman of the non-aligned movement (NAM), called on the group currently meeting in Belgrade to "prevail upon India" to end hostilities.

Tiger Supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran, in his letter to Yugoslav President Janez Drnovesk, said India's continued military presence on the island showed New Delhi had "imperial and hegemonistic designs in the region."

The LTTE's London office released copies of the letter to reporters here to coincide with the Monday opening of ninth summit of the 102-member movement.

The LTTE has repudiated a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign led by tiger rebels in the island's Tamil-populated northeast and is waging a bush war against Indian troops.

Talks are under way between Colombo and New Delhi for the withdrawal of some 42,000 Indian troops called the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) following a request by Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

"The 1987 accord and the Indian military intervention and occupation that followed, have triggered off unprecedented violence and turmoil in the island. Six thousand Tamils and Muslims have perished at the hands of the Indian occupation army," the letter said.

It said the minority Tamil population as well as the majority Sinhalese advocated the total withdrawal of the IPKF. "It is the consensus view of our people that peace and normalcy could only return once the Indian military intervention is ceased and troops are withdrawn."

The LTTE letter said the IPKF was a "destructive force committing genocide against our people" rather than being a peace-keeping force.

"Indian military presence has created ugly conditions of civil war among the Sinhalese as well as among Tamils plunging the entire island into a violent chaos and turbulence," Mr Prabhakarana said.

The Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), which is militantly opposed to the 1987 accord, is leading a violent campaign to send the IPKF back and overthrow the government.

Since the accord, the JVP has been accused of killing more than 2,500 rivals.

The LTTE has lost more than 2,000 activists and killed nearly 1,000 Indian soldiers in bitter fighting that has been continuing since October 1987.

Trade Minister Returns From Pakistan, Turkey

BK3108114989 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Minister of Trade and Shipping A.R. Mansoor returned to the island yesterday after an official tour of Pakistan and Turkey. Mr Mansoor told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that the tour to both countries was successful. He said he held talks with his counterparts of both countries and met with the leaders over there. The minister said that both countries agreed to strengthen the existing trade links between the two countries and trade teams will visit Sri Lanka shortly. Turkey's trade team will be led by her trade minister. Mr Mansoor also attended the Ajmer annual trade fair at Islamabad, Turkey [as heard] where goods from over 50 countries, including Sri Lanka, were exhibited. According to reports, many have shown a keen interest in nontraditional goods from Sri Lanka.

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13 Sept 1989